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TRANSVAAL.

FURTHER CORRESPONDENCE

RELATING TO

LABOUR IN THE TRANSVAAL MINES.

(*In continuation of* [*Cd.* 2788] *January*, 1906.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
February, 1906.

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1906.

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2	To Mr. C. H. Norman.	—	September 14	States, and suggests that Mr. Shaw's statements require investigation; that Lord Selborne is investigating the matter; considers it unnecessary to say anything as to the statements of Mr. See, Mr. Bell, M.P., having agreed that he is unworthy of evidence, promises an enquiry into Mr. Boland's allegations.	4
3	To Governor the Earl of Selborne.	—	September 16	Transmits copy of Nos. 1 and 2, and asks for a report on Mr. Boland's allegations, and those of Mr. Mackarness in the "Westminster Gazette" of September 7.	4
4	Ditto	Telegram 2.	October 25	Presumes that piece-work contracts have been approved by the Superintendent and are clearly understood by the coolies; requests views of Superintendent upon the provision for a bonus to boss coolies; the mining interest must be distinctly informed that every proper facility must be given to the Superintendent of Labour in his duty of supervising and safeguarding these contracts.	6
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TRANSVAAL.

FURTHER CORRESPONDENCE

RELATING TO

LABOUR IN THE TRANSVAAL MINES.

No. 1.

MR. C. H. NORMAN to MR. LYTTELTON.

(Received September 8, 1905.)

[*Answered by No.* 2.]

4 N., Hyde Park Mansions, London, N.W.,

DEAR SIR, September 6, 1905.

I REGRET that I have not yet received any report from you relating to the matter which I called your attention to, for the second time, on 29th July last.* The delay in obtaining information seems to me very remarkable.

May I direct your most earnest attention to the three enclosed cuttings, "Daily Chronicle," July 31st,† "Daily Chronicle," September 2nd,† "Morning Leader," September 6th (to-day). I have not thought it necessary to forward your letter to Mr. Richard Bell, M.P., in which you reply to his letter asking you to hold an inquiry into Mr. Shan's statements. The cutting from the "Daily Chronicle" of September 2nd is my criticism on your reply to Mr. Bell, and I venture to repeat his request to you to hold an inquiry into Mr. Shan's statements. Though a blackmailer, I agree, ought to have very little attention paid to him, I do strongly represent to you, Sir, with the greatest respect, that it is by no means clear that this Chinaman is a scoundrel and a liar. At any rate, having regard to the explicit nature of his statements, it seems to me it would be more reassuring if you directed an investigation into his statements.

I also draw your most serious attention to Mr. Boland's allegations of unspeakable atrocities taking place under direct official (I mean under the Chamber of Mines) inspiration. These statements are perfectly distinct, and, if true, represent an intolerable state of things. If these bestial outrages do actually take place, it reduces our English civilisation to a level with Turkey and the Congo, if the worst of the charges made against the Administration of those States is correct.

I should be very obliged if you would return the enclosures when you acknowledge this letter, which I hope you will do at your earliest convenience, as the issues raised are very grave.

Apologising for troubling you, and with the utmost confidence that you will deal with the matter.

I remain, &c.,

C. H. NORMAN.

* Not printed. † Not reprinted.

Enclosure 3 in No. 1.

"Morning Leader," Wednesday, September 6, 1905.

The Price of Gold.

Flogging of the Rand Yellow Serf.

Horrible Cruelties.

Barbarities Practised in the Mine Compounds.

Terror on the Rand.

Measures for Preserving Life and Property.

By Frank C. Boland.

Johannesburg, August 14.

London is less than 20 days from Johannesburg. The Chinese have been here more than a year, and yet there are millions of people in England to-day who pretend to deny that these coolie labourers on the Rand have been consistently flogged and otherwise punished.

Even here on the Rand three of the four daily papers—all of them the mouthpieces of the big mining houses—refused until very recently to acknowledge that flogging took place. Then they affected surprise, and stated that the instances were isolated. Cables from England, reporting discussions in the House of Commons on the flogging question, were headed "More Canards," "Latest Chinese Lies," and so forth.

"Flogging Must Cease."

But when Mr. Lyttelton, after strenuously denying for months that floggings were being administered, made the pronouncement that "flogging must cease," the local press were compelled to abandon evasive tactics and admit the truth.

I now propose to tell you, from the evidence of my own eyes, and from the descriptions given by men who ordered floggings in innumerable cases, how various kinds of punishment were being, and are being, inflicted.

Take the Witwatersrand Mine, for instance. The average number of coolies flogged daily for one month early this year was 42, Sundays included. This information was given me by the official whose duty it was to make a record of the registered numbers of those men who were punished.

Laying on the Punishment.

Here is the method of procedure. A coolie is reported either by a white shift boss or by a headman for an offence. He is called into the compound manager's office, charged, and given a fair trial (except where the compound manager does not know the Chinese language, and has to trust to his yellow interpreter). Then the sentence is passed by the compound manager—10, 15, or 20 strokes, according to the crime.

The coolie, with a Chinese policeman on either side of him, is taken away about ten paces. Then he stops, and at the word of a policeman drops his pantaloons, and falls flat on his face and at full length on the floor. One policeman holds his feet together; another, with both hands pressed firmly on the back of his head, looks after that end of his body.

Then the flagellator, with a strip of thick leather on the end of a three-foot wooden handle, lays on the punishment, severely or lightly, as instructed.

Should the prisoner struggle after the first few strokes, another policeman plants a foot in the middle of his back until the full dose has been administered.

Cutting the Flesh.

In another form of flogging, practised, if not at the Witwatersrand Mine, at the Witwatersrand Deep, a short bamboo was used. The coolie would strip to the waist and go down on his knees with his head on the floor.

His castigator would then squat beside him, and strike him across the shoulders with lightning rapidity. The blows, though apparently light, always fell on the one spot, and raised a large red weal before cutting the flesh.

During the first quarter of this year no fewer than 56 coolies were whipped after eight p.m. one evening at the Witwatersrand Mine, the dose varying from five to fifteen strokes.

Torture Under the Sjambok.

At the Nourse Deep severe punishment was meted out. Every boy who did not drill his 36 inches per shift was liable to be, and actually was, whipped unless he were ill, and could show that it was a physical impossibility for him to do a day's work.

A sjambok was used; it was laid on relentlessly by Chinese policemen, the part of the body selected being the muscles and tendons at the back of the thighs.

Even the sight of blood did not matter. The policeman would go right on to the last stroke. Having been thus punished, the coolie could walk away; but after sitting down for a time the bruised tendons would refuse to work. Many of the coolies were sent to hospital to recover.

Resigned in the Cause of Humanity.

At a later date at this mine strips of rubber were substituted for a sjambok. This rubber, while causing very sharp pain, does not cut.

After a time the mine officials found that the coolies were not maintaining the monthly increase, and the management urged the Chinese controller to "do something." He refused to thrash the coolies unless they had committed some crime; and being informed by the manager that his policy would not suit, he gave two months' notice of his resignation.

Meanwhile the management issued instructions, because of advices from England, that flogging should be stopped so far as possible, but asking that other forms of punishment should be substituted.

Far Eastern Modes of Torture.

Thereupon certain forms of torture well known in the Far East were adopted. One of these was to strip erring coolies absolutely naked, and leave them tied by their pigtails to a stake in the compound for two or three hours. The other coolies would gather round and laugh and jeer at their countrymen who stood shivering in the intense cold.

A more refined form of torture was to bind a coolie's left wrist with a piece of fine rope, which was then put through a ring in a beam about nine feet from the ground. This rope was then made taut so that the unhappy coolie, with his left arm pulled up perpendicularly, had to stand on his tip-toes. In this position he was kept, as a rule, for two hours, during which time, if he tried to get down on his heels, he must dangle in the air hanging from the left wrist.

Every mine has its lock-up for malingerers, deserters, and others. At the Witwatersrand the coolies are handcuffed over a horizontal beam.

Prospect of Fines and Starvation.

The floor is of concrete, and they may sit down, but the beam is so far from the floor that it is impossible for any but exceptionally tall men to sit while handcuffed. They must therefore squat, and for a change raise themselves in a semi-standing posture.

When released, these prisoners stagger about until they regain the use of their legs; then they take their skoff and go below to work.

With the abolition of flogging, compound managers are now inventing other forms of punishment. In future, also, there will be an extensive system of fines, and food will be withheld.

Meanwhile, with all these methods of punishment, the coolies are still turbulent. Last Monday practically every head boy on the Nourse Deep—75 in all—was sent to gaol for seven days. This step is certain to foment trouble in the near future.

Outrages by Yellow Serfs.

Last week a party of Chinese surrounded the house of a Klipfontein farmer named Cann, who fired on them. They, nevertheless, charged the front door of his house, smashed it open, and entered. It was only after Cann had wounded two more of the party that they beat a retreat.

At Brakpan, some 18 miles from Johannesburg, a party of Chinese entered the house of a Mrs. Sullivan, tied her hands behind her back, tied up her children, and then ransacked the house. A party of Brakpan residents afterwards armed themselves, and set out in quest of the coolies, but could not find them.

It is reported this morning that a number of Dutch farmers have united to hunt down a band of Chinese who attacked a farmhouse east of Brakpan, at Vischkuil. While a fire was in progress at the New Primrose yesterday a fierce fight occurred between coolies and the native (Zulu) police. The former used sticks and stones, the latter knobkerries. Several Chinese were badly injured, and they ultimately retreated.

Last Tuesday, in the police-court, Johannesburg, a Chinese coolie was remanded on a charge of raping a young Dutch girl. *Of course, the matter was not mentioned in the daily press.*

No. 2.

COLONIAL OFFICE to Mr. C. H. NORMAN.

Dear Sir, Downing Street, September 14, 1905.

Mr. Lyttelton desires me to return to you, as requested, the extracts from the "Daily Chronicle" and "Morning Leader," which you were good enough to send him in your letter of the 6th instant,* and to inform you that Lord Selborne has personally gone into the question of the treatment of Chinese coolies in the Transvaal, and is investigating the matter thoroughly.

As to Mr. T. A. See's statements, Mr. Lyttelton does not consider that anything further need be said, Mr. Bell, M.P., having agreed with him that the author of the letter to the manager of the East Rand Mines was not worthy of confidence.

Of Mr. Boland Mr. Lyttelton has no knowledge, and his allegations will be brought to Lord Selborne's notice at once, with a request that they may be specifically enquired into.

I am, &c.,
FRED. GRAHAM.

No. 3.

Mr. LYTTELTON to Governor the EARL OF SELBORNE.

[*Answered by Nos. 5 and 14.*]

My Lord, Downing Street, September 16, 1905.

I have the honour to transmit to you copy of a letter* from Mr. C. H. Norman on the subject of the treatment of Chinese coolies in the mines, together with a copy of my reply.†

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* No. 1. † No. 2.

You will see that I do not consider it necessary to take any notice of the allegations made by the writer of the letter which appeared in the "Daily Chronicle" of the 31st of July, but I shall be glad to receive from you a full report on the specific allegations, made in Mr. F. C. Boland's letter to the "Morning Leader," as to the flogging of Chinese at the Witwatersrand Mine, the Witwatersrand Deep, and the Nourse Deep, and other forms of torture employed at the Witwatersrand Mine and the Nourse Deep, and as to outrages by the Chinese on Mr. Cann and Mrs. Sullivan, the alleged case of rape and the fight at the New Primrose mine.

I also enclose a copy of a letter to the "Westminster Gazette" from Mr. F. Mackarness, and I request that you will report as to the alleged "tying-up" of coolies.

I have, &c.,
ALFRED LYTTELTON.

Enclosure in No. 3.

"The Westminster Gazette," September 7, 1905.

The Undesirable Ordinance.

To the Editor of "The Westminster Gazette."

Sir,—I am glad that Mr. Trevelyan has called attention to the alarming inferences to be drawn from the recent news about the Chinese in the Transvaal mines—their frequent dashes for liberty, the terror of the white people, and the drastic steps taken by the authorities to drive back these poor yellow wretches into the clutches of the mine-owners. Before Parliament rose there was much controversy as to how far, if at all, illegal punishments are inflicted upon the Chinese working in the mines.

I have before me a letter from an Englishman who has been working, since he fought in the war, in one of the mines. He has not the objections to Chinese labour that are held by Liberals, and his evidence cannot be called biassed against mine-owners. But he is indignant at the way in which he says the Chinese are illegally done out of their minimum wage of 1s. per day by being forced to undertake contract work, under which they are liable to lose their pay altogether unless they do what the mine-manager considers an adequate day's work. He concludes his letter dealing with this subject as follows:—

> Of course, the coolies have other grievances, such as being flogged and tied up in the compound, but I will not weary you with this, especially as it is really very necessary for the maintenance of law and order. Here one breaks the law to keep the law.

As it is understood that the Government and Lord Selborne are investigating the question of mine-managers flogging the Chinese, I will say for the present no more about that. What, however, I wish to call attention to is the writer's expression "tied up." I did not know what this meant until I was shown a later letter from another Englishman in the Transvaal explaining what it is. He encloses a snap-shot photograph of a Chinaman "tied up" in one of the mines, of which I enclose a sketch as well as the original photograph for the benefit of your readers. The photograph was taken either by the writer or by his friend with him at the time. I am not sure which. They were both going over the mine. This is what he says about it:—

> Of course there are "black sheep" in every flock, and the photo shows one of these being punished. The instrument of punishment is a heavy piece of board padlocked on to the unfortunate man's shoulders, and he stands in the entrance of the compound, where all his friends can see him. He naturally dislikes being photographed, as it is the disgrace and humiliation they feel more than the actual punishment.

The writer of this letter defends the use of Chinese labour on the ground of its cheapness, and says that the men are well looked after: but his camera speaks for itself. He is not, like the writer of the first letter, employed in the mines, but in a firm doing business with the mines. Hence the impossibility of my making public the name of either writer, though I know friends of each who guarantee their good faith. It appears, Sir, from these letters that both flogging and the form of Oriental punishment shown in the photograph are not rare or secret, but open, if not general, and the question that arises is, Has the Chinese inspector, or any other controlling authority provided by the law, reported these illegal occurrences to the Government; and, if not, what is the value of the inspection? If a casual visitor can see these things, why cannot Government inspectors? A great deal of indignation has been shown by defenders of the Ordinance at the word "slavery" being applied to the system sanctioned by it; but under what system except slavery could employers openly inflict upon what Bishop Gore has called their "animated implements" such punishments as these? It is only under such a law that these punishments become possible. That is one of the gravest counts in the indictment against the Ordinance.

Yours, faithfully,
Frederic Mackarness.

No. 4.

MR. LYTTELTON to GOVERNOR THE EARL OF SELBORNE.

(Sent 12.47 p.m., October 25, 1905.)

TELEGRAM.

[*Answered by No.* 8.]

October 25. No. 2. I was not aware when I asked for copies of piece-work contracts that they were so varied in terms. Sir A. Lawley, in his telegram of 18th April, No. 1,* stated that these contracts were subject to approval of the Superintendent, who will take effective steps to ensure that they are clearly understood by the coolies. I presume that these contracts have been so approved.

I also should be glad to have the views of the Superintendent upon the provision for a bonus to boss coolies contained in the last agreement enclosed in your despatch. The mining interest must be distinctly informed that every proper facility must be given to the Superintendent of Labour in his duty of supervising and safeguarding these contracts.

No. 5.

GOVERNOR THE EARL OF SELBORNE to MR. LYTTELTON.

(Received 6 p.m., November 1, 1905.)

TELEGRAM.

November 1. A. I will send a reply to your despatch of the 16th September† as soon as I possibly can. Mr. Jamieson states that before his arrival there is no doubt that owing to the insufficient number of Inspectors to visit the mines, there was on some of them flogging without the knowledge of the authorities, but he has every reason to believe that since June this has stopped. Every opportunity is given for the coolies to make complaint to the Inspectors who make careful investigation into them. Jamieson has received very few complaints, and in none of those received has ill-treatment by the mine authorities been referred to. Instructions have been given for the prosecution of guilty persons in any case where there is evidence of ill-treatment.

No. 6.

GOVERNOR THE EARL OF SELBORNE to MR. LYTTELTON.

(Received November 11, 1905.)

[*Acknowledged by No.* 24.]

SIR, Governor's Office, Johannesburg, October 23, 1905.

I HAVE the honour to enclose, for your information, copies of documents on the subject of a public meeting held at Potchefstroom on the 4th October on the subject of Chinese labour.

I have, &c.,
SELBORNE,
Governor.

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* Not printed. † No. 3.

Enclosure 1 in No. 6.

Dr. W. Mortimer to High Commissioner.

My Lord, Potchefstroom, October 5, 1905.

As Chairman of a very large and openly convened public meeting held in this town on the evening of Wednesday, October 4th, 1905, I have the honour, by the direction of that meeting, to forward to Your Excellency a copy of the resolution passed by a show of hands in the proportion of not less than twenty-five to one.

I have also, by further direction of the meeting, to request that Your Excellency will be good enough to transmit a copy of the resolution to His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies.

I have, &c.,
W. Mortimer,
M.R.C.S. Eng., L.R.C.P. Lond.

To the Right Honourable
The Earl of Selborne, G.C.M.G.,
&c., &c., &c.,
His Majesty's High Commissioner for South Africa,
Sunnyside, Johannesburg.

Resolution.

That the meeting is of opinion that Chinese labour is not only unnecessary but is seriously harmful to the best interests of this country and expresses its urgent desire that the earliest possible steps be taken to repeal the Ordinance, with the exception of such clauses therein as may be absolutely necessary for the carrying out of contracts legally entered into, and which must not be extended, and further that this resolution be sent to the High Commissioner and the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

Enclosure 2 in No. 6.

Chinese Labour.

Movement for Repeal.

Public Meeting at Potchefstroom.

Speech by Mr. Creswell.

A crowded public meeting was held in the Lyric Hall, Potchefstroom, on Wednesday evening last, the 4th October, when Mr. F. H. P. Creswell, of Johannesburg, gave an address on the Chinese Labour Question. Over 500 people were present, including a few ladies.

The Chairman (Dr. Mortimer) said the meeting had been arranged by reason of a wide-spread request of inhabitants of the town and district, who, having heard Sir George Farrar's views the other day in regard to Chinese labour, wished to learn what could be said from the other side. The meeting was entirely non-political, except in so far as the Chinese question necessarily involved politics. The meeting otherwise had nothing to do with Responsibles, Progressives, or Het Volk.

Mr. F. H. P. Creswell.

Ladies and Gentlemen,—I can assure you that it was with the greatest gratification that I received Dr. Mortimer's invitation to address this meeting, and with the greatest pleasure that I accepted that invitation.

The pro-Chinese people with their newspapers, with their company meetings, and with the meetings of that exalted society for mutual admiration, the Chamber of Mines, have had it too much their own way in putting their half-truths before the public.

The last public meeting which was to have been addressed on this topic was, I believe, that at the Wanderers' Hall, Johannesburg, in December, 1903, when, with a true reflection of their customary distorted ideas of British fair play, they hired rowdies to attend and prevent anyone from speaking.

But public questions will get themselves discussed, and many of us must for long past have felt it was quite time that something more should be done than is being done to keep other facts and aspects of this question before the public, beides those which our pro-Chinese opponents are so industrious in putting forward.

It is time for those of us who hold decided views, who know that the facts put forward by the other side do not cover the whole ground, to be active.

It is time for us to rouse ourselves and see to it that in the minds of all that great mass of the population, who know instinctively that this Chinese labour development is radically unsound, positive reasons for obeying that sound instinct and positive reasons for the reversal of this policy, and positive facts on which those reasons are based, shall take the place of the mere feeling of distrust, well founded distrust though it be of the facts, the promises, and the threats of Sir George Farrar and his friends in connection with this subject.

We must remember that the main strength of the Chinese party lies in the fact that the importers of Chinese labour—the people who were the authors of the movement—are in the, for them, happy position of being able to give just those facts to the public which support the view they wish the public to take and of being able to a large extent to suppress almost every fact which shows how rotten their case really is.

Why should we wonder, therefore, if the constant reiteration of facts which are only half facts, and of arguments based on this distorted presentation of the case, should induce many to give a grudging assent to this policy if no measures are taken on our side to show hollowness of the threats and the promises by which so many were converted.

If we believe that this question is one with which the present and future well-being of the people of this Colony is closely bound up, it is not enough to let this dreary iteration of the pro-Chinese arguments go by with merely what amounts to saying, "I do not believe you." Arguments must be met by arguments and facts by facts, and if really necessary also those threats, which it is not in their power to enforce, by threats which it is well within the power of the people of this Colony under a constitutional Government to carry into effect.

I cannot pretend to do more this evening than partially supply this deficiency on our side, but I think I can do something. And of this I am convinced, that, if all those who think as we do, will, each in his sphere, contribute their quota, without fear or favour, it will result in such a mass of argument, in such a body of earnest feeling being aroused throughout this country that we shall see this pernicious policy definitely and finally reversed by our first elected Legislature.

Sir George Farrar, when he was down here a few weeks ago, told you that if you insisted on the coolies being repatriated the grass would grow in your streets.

Possibly the few blades of grass I noticed as I came through your town are your punishment for ever daring to question Sir George Farrar's political sagacity.

I venture to think, however, that it is more likely that they are the first indication of what will result if the Colony continues to let itself be guided by Sir George Farrar and his friends in this matter.

Well, after all, those of us who have carefully followed the course of this Chinese agitation have become quite familiar with the system of trying to frighten us with the awful things which would happen if we did not think with them and of cajoling us with promises of what good times we would all have if we did think with them.

Those of us who have taken the trouble to go closely into the matter have, however, long since seen that the only danger of those awful things happening lay in these same gentlemen's obstinacy in setting to work to bring them about. And also in the Government not being sufficiently alive to the inside facts of the matter to take the necessary steps to prevent the whole community suffering from the determination of these gentlemen to have their way or squeeze the people until they let them have their way.

And whether we have gone closely into it or not there are not many now who will not readily admit that in not one single respect have their promises of good times been carried out.

I was one of those, and I know there were many, who, from the first, was by no means frightened by their pictures of ruin, and declined to be misled by their promises, and I certainly have now no reason to be less sceptical of their forecasts than I had two years ago. In fact, to-day we are in a much better position than we were then to demonstrate the hollowness of their arguments, and I will put before you some reasons, and think you will agree with me they are solid reasons for the faith that is in us.

To judge of the truth of what they say to-day, let us take the similar things they told us two years ago.

First, let us take that threat of industrial stagnation and paralysis which they dinned into our ears in 1903; the equivalent then of the grass-grown streets you are told to look forward to in 1906.

They told us then that unless the country consented to their getting Chinese many mines would have to stop, and that at all events no more stamps would be enabled to drop and no new enterprises undertaken. What evidence was there of this?

Does any man there think that, even long-suffering though the shareholders in the mines are, these shareholders would not make an effective protest against their mines being stopped when they were working at a profit?

Do you really think they would stand for long the shutting down of mines out of mere temper because Sir George Farrar and his friends could not get the Chinese they had set their heart on?

Do you suppose that the esteem in which these gentlemen are held by the great body of European investors is so high that their credit would stand the exposure of their resorting to such tactics?

And was a single mine on the Rand running at a loss in 1903? If there was I certainly have never heard of it, and, moreover, it must have been their own fault if it was.

The next shape the "bogey" took was that no more stamps would be dropped. "Give us Chinese," they said, "and we will drop more stamps. Refuse us Chinese, and much as we desire to do it, we cannot increase the number of stamps now dropping and increase the output of gold. We would like to—we want to—and we shall all be ruined if we don't, but we can't unless you give us Chinese."

Unfortunately for them, and fortunately for us now, actions count far more than words. The records show that all the time they were trying to make our flesh creep by the exhibition of this "bogey" of stagnation and ruin, their actions were giving the lie to their words.

The Mines Department of the Government issue each month most admirable statistical reports relating to the mines, and I commend these to all of those who take an interest in this subject.

You will find from these that in June, 1903, when they were frightening us by these pictures of stagnation, there were 3,500 stamps at work on the Rand, and that on these producing mines 47,250 natives were employed.

Not a single Chinaman arrived till the following June, but you won't find much sign of stagnation.

You will find instead that they kept steadily increasing the stamps at work without Chinese, that they kept on getting in more natives, and that while in June, 1903, they were using 1,350 natives for every 100 stamps at work, they managed from then till June, 1904, to put on an extra 100 stamps (without waiting for any Chinese, mark you) for every 1,085 natives they added to the labour on the producing mines, and that by June, 1904, they had added 1,255 stamps to the stamps at work, making at that date 4,755 stamps in operation.

You will find that, as you would expect, necessity was teaching them, and they were learning to run 100 stamps with fewer natives.

How does this square with what they were telling us—that unless they got Chinese they could drop no more stamps, and that the industry would be paralysed?

So much for stagnation of the industry. But in answer to this they will now tell you that this just carried them on to the stagnation point—that but for the heaven-sent arrival of Chinese they would have had to stop at their 4,755 stamps, or, at all events, that Chinese have enabled them to get more stamps going very much more quickly than they would have been able to do without Chinese.

Again, gentlemen, be very wary how you accept this or similar assertions.

Look at the records!

What do they show?

They show that between June, 1904, and the end of last August—the last month for which statistics are available—the number of natives on the producing mines of the Rand had increased by 19,000 or an average increase of 1,355 a month.

Does any man here for a minute really believe that, if no Chinese had come here at all, the gentlemen controlling the mines would not have done exactly the same from June, 1904, to August, 1905, as they did from June, 1903, to June, 1904?

Does anyone believe that, in the latter period as in the former period, they would not have managed to bring an average of a hundred more stamps into operation, and into the producing mines, for every 1,085 natives at least that they added to their force of native labour?

Does anyone here believe that as in 1903 and 1904 so after June, 1904, they would not have gone on learning to economise their native labour and drop more stamps with the same number of natives at work?

If they had merely added on 100 stamps for every 1,085 natives, as they did up to June, 1904, do you know how many stamps would have been working in August, 1905?

They would have had 6,503 stamps at work! Do you know how many they actually had at work?

They had 6,845 stamps at work or a paltry 342 stamps more than if no Chinese had ever been imported!

But do you think that, supposing Chinese had been forbidden they would not have learnt, in the course of a year, how to use fewer natives per stamp and have got even these 342 stamps at work with the labour they have at their disposal?

I will in a few minutes give you some figures and give you some instances which will convince you, as they convince me, that they would have done so.

Remember this and remember it always—when Sir George Farrar and the Chamber of Mines people tell you that if you send back their coolies to China you will by so doing hang up more than 2,000 stamps—that you can show them by the incontestable figures of what they have done themselves, that, without a single Chinaman, they could by their own records have reached at the very least the position in which they are to-day.

And give them to know that when you send these coolies back your representatives are going to see to it that they carry on the industry as they themselves have shown that it can be carried on; are going to see to it if they go on strike, as they threatened to do in 1903, and try to squeeze the people of the Colony into changing their mind—that the Government will take measures to make a mine owners' strike as unpleasant for them as for the rest of the Colony.

Now you will probably be told that it is all very well to take into account the producing mines on the Rand.

The producing mines, they will tell you, will be worked out in the course of time, and a large amount of labour is required for these other mines which are in the non-producing stage.

A friend with whom I was discussing this question maintained that at least 30 per cent. of the labour on the Rand was used on these non-producing mines.

This is very typical of the vague ideas which prevail on these subjects. For, gentlemen, the figures of the Mines Department show that only a little over one-tenth of the coloured labour on the Rand is used to-day on these non-producing mines.

I find that on these non-producing mines, 12,900 natives were employed in June, 1903, and 11,000 natives with 4,600 Chinese were employed in August, 1905.

I think from what we have seen, in talking of the producing mines, that if you got rid of the 4,600 Chinese, our friends would make the best of it and get along without them.

I should like you to note, however, in passing, that on these non-producing mines, the number of white men employed last August was 100 less than those employed in June, 1903, although they were using some 3,000 coloured men, natives and coolies, more than at that time!

Another great bug-bear, which was dinned into your ears in 1903—a kind of "technical fetish" which you were told to take on trust—was the falling behind of development on the mines. You were told time and again that it was very true that many mines were running

with only 12 or 10 or fewer natives to the stamp, but that these mines were only able to do this by trenching on their reserve of developed ore, and, with this labour force, were quite unable to keep their developments abreast of their mining; and that this meant these mines coming to a standstill sooner or later.

Unfortunately, I have not been able to get the figures on this point for the whole Rand for 1903. The Mines Department only began to give these at the beginning of this year. Possibly these might show a decrease of reserves while the mines were engaged chiefly in setting their mills working. But I have picked out a number of mines which we can take as typical mines, supposed to be short of labour at that time, and to which this argument was supposed to apply.

Let us first take the East Rand Proprietary Mines—the mines which Sir George Farrar is so fond of referring to as "My mines," although, by the way, I see that the utmost efforts of himself and friends, in Johannesburg, London, and Paris, failed, this year, to get together the representation of the 25 per cent. of the shares necessary for a special general meeting.

I find Sir George Farrar telling his shareholders, at their yearly meeting, in March, that, in the year's work he was reviewing, namely, 1903, development had not only kept pace with mining, but that they had been able to increase their reserves of ore developed by 142,000 tons. Now it is right to tell you that this included some non-producing mines—so let us see how his producing mines only were faring. I find in the general manager's report for the same year, that in the two producing mines of the group, the Angelo and the Driefontein, they had in one case been able since June, and in the other since September of that year, to develop more rock than they had mined, and in both cases he states that this will continue.

Clearly this bug-bear was not very real on "my mines."

Now I will take three other mines—subsidiaries of the Rand Mines, Ltd.—The Glen Deep, the Geldenhuis Deep, and the Rose Deep. I find that the Rose Deep for the year ending June, 1904—that is during the year before Chinese came—developed about 70,000 tons more than it milled; that is to say, did not trench on its reserves, but added to its reserves. That mine, it should be admitted, is one with wide reef.

The Glen Deep in the year before the Chinese came appears to have fallen behind slightly, but in the quarter before Chinese arrived, while the labour shortage was still as acute as ever, was able to develop more tons than it milled, and this though it milled more tons that quarter than in the previous quarter.

The Geldenhuis Deep in the first half of 1904—before a single Chinaman was in the country, and while it was still running with very few natives to the stamp—also developed more tons than it milled, that is to say, did not trench on its ore reserves, but added to them.

From this one can safely assume that this cry about the development falling behind was as false as the other cries raised by our Chinese friends.

If it was the case that in some mines the development was allowed to fall behind as these mines fell behind at one time we can equally safely assume that it was because such mines had large reserves, and did not mind falling into arrears with their development, the main object of the moment being to get the mill going. Critics who do not recognise, as of course we recognise, the loftiness of view which, in the opinion of some people actuates the Chamber of Mines in all their actions, might say, that in some mines it was convenient to trench on their ore reserves temporarily, in order to furnish an argument in favour of Chinese!

Again, getting behind those convenient defences, which technicalities afford them, they will tell you that with the short labour supply, before Chinese came, they were unable to do any sorting, and that Chinese labour has enabled them to increase their sorting, and so work their mines more economically.

It is profoundly unfortunate for them that the Mines Department should issue such admirable statistics.

I find that during all the period of their so-called impossibly short labour supply, the percentage of waste rock sorted out rose from 14½ per cent. in June, 1903, to as much as 18½ per cent. in the early part of 1904, and that it oscillated between 17 and 18 per cent. through most of that period.

I find that during their Chinese period the percentage sorted has still kept between 17 and 18 per cent.; in no month has it gone higher than in the best month before Chinese came—and in August, 1905, they were sorting 17⅓ per cent.

This will show you again how sceptical you must be, when these technical points are advanced by these people—points which you cannot, from your own knowledge, assess at their true worth.

Now, gentlemen, in arguing with their adherents, you will probably find them fall back on their last defence, and tell you that while it is quite true that the mines can be worked with much fewer coloured men than they claim, such working is costly and not economical. They will tell you that, in order to keep going, they have to use a lot of white men, and that working on these lines is prohibitively expensive; that coolies are very much cheaper, and that in order to work low grades mines they must use coolies.

Permit me to put before you a few figures I have taken out of the quarterly reports of various companies, to show you something of the facts of the case as regards this matter.

You can then judge for yourselves from these figures, how much truth there is in this claim that coolies are cheaper than white men, as a supplement to the native supply; and whether the use of white men or the use of coolies, as a supplementary labour supply is the more likely to bring about such a reduction of the working cost that the low grade mines can be worked.

I have picked out at random a number of mines, and I find that the mine showing the best results, the only one showing other than very bad results with coolies, is the Van Ryn Mine. This mine, in the June quarter of 1904, was working at a cost of 24s. 5d. per ton, and milled 30,000 tons in that quarter; they were then using natives and, I believe, no unskilled whites at all. A year before that they were milling 24,500 tons at a cost of 28s. 2d. per ton with 1,000 natives.

In the June quarter of 1905 it worked at a cost of 21s. a ton, and milled 60,000 tons. In that quarter it was using some 2,000 coolies.

Here our opponents will say is a clear indication of the success of Chinese labour. It has both added to the production and diminished the cost per ton.

So far as the diminution in the cost per ton is concerned, I will first of all ask you to notice that, in the quarter in which the costs were 21s. per ton, work was carried on, on just twice the scale that it was run when costs were 24s. 5d. per ton. We all of us know that when any industrial establishment is running at half-speed the cost of production is much greater than when working at its full capacity. Looking at the reduction effected in the previous year, and the reduction here of cost, considering they were treating twice as many tons, we may fairly say is due to the increase in the scale of work and would have been greater if this increase had been brought about without using coolies. This view is established by a consideration of the other mines I will quote to you.

That the increased scale of the work was not due to the supply of coolies, and could have taken place without them, will also be clear to you from another case I will quote.

Next, let us take the Glen Deep, which received its coolies a couple of months after the Van Ryn Company.

At this mine you will find that in the quarter ending 31st January, 1903, they milled 20,000 tons at a cost of 27s. 4d. per ton. In the quarter ending 30th April, 1904, they milled 40,000 tons at a cost of 21s. 8d. a ton. Notice here that labour still being short, they had managed to double the scale of their work and had reduced their costs by 5s. 8d. a ton. In the following quarter, ending 31st July, 1904, they milled 40,700 tons and worked at a cost of 20s. 4d. a ton.

In September, 1904, they imported 1,900 Chinese. That quarter their costs showed an increase of 5s. 4d. a ton. In the last quarter for which reports are issued, that ending July 31st of this year, their costs had come down to 23s. 7d. a ton, and they milled 47,500 tons. As a result of importing these coolies the mine throughout the year has been milling a few more tons per quarter, but at a cost of from 3s. 6d. to 4s. a ton over the whole tonnage more than it would have done if they had left Chinese alone.

One imagines that the shareholders of the Glen Deep must be rather sorry they imported those 1,900 coolies if by chance they have really given any attention to the subject.

At the Rose Deep you will have the same story; a gradual reduction of the costs from September, 1903, when costs were 17s. 11d. per ton, until the quarter ending September, 1904, when it was 16s. 9d. per ton. Then, in the next quarter, due quite probably to taking on more natives from the mines to which Chinese had been allotted, and "sacking" white men to make room for them, their costs rose to 17s. 10d. a ton. Then they began importing Chinese, and by the quarter ending 30th June, 1905, their costs had risen to 20s. 4d. a ton.

The Geldenhuis tells the same tale. With a small number of natives and a large number of white men (I believe the largest number of white men employed by any mine on the Rand) they had got 160 or 180 stamps at work. The whole year through 1904 their costs remained at 19s. or 19s. 1d. per ton.

In the first quarter of this year ("poor shareholders!") they imported Chinese. The last quarterly report shows their costs at 22s. 3d., that is to say, Chinese have increased their costs by 3s. 3d. a ton.

Next let us take the French Rand Company. In the quarter ending December, 1903, it milled 21,300 tons, and its costs were 27s. 11d. a ton. By the quarter ending September 30th, 1904, it had increased its tonnage milled to 25,000 tons, and its costs had decreased to 26s. 11d.

It then imported Chinese, and in that quarter its costs rose to 37s. 6d. This was, however, exceptional, and in the March quarter its costs came down to 27s. 1d.

In the quarter ending in June last they had risen again to 27s. 10d., though they could only make it this figure by writing off 1s. 2d. less to development redemption than in the previous quarter. So it had really risen by 2s. a ton in this quarter. In this same quarter they milled 41,000 tons.

You see, therefore, that compared with the September quarter of 1904, their costs with coolies were apparently 1s. a ton higher, and making the correction for development redemption really 3s. a ton higher by the June quarter of this year as the result of Chinese; and this although the mine increased the scale of its work by 60 per cent. and should in consequence have been able to show a very material decrease in cost per ton.

You see from these figures that Chinese labour so far from diminishing cost of production and bringing the low grade mines within reach as workable propositions, has increased the costs and brings us not a bit nearer to working those masses of low grade ore that we have heard so much about.

Sir George Farrar, in his speech in the Legislative Council, when moving for legislation to enable his friends to import Chinese, said, in answer to certain contentions of the minority report of the Labour Commission: "We are not fools, we have faced this question of shortage of labour," and proceeded to expound how Chinese labour was the only thing to save the mines and the country.

Now, ladies and gentlemen, one would hate to suggest anything uncivil, but it must be admitted that an impartial critic when he sees the Chinese labour was not necessary to get their mines to work; was not necessary to prevent their trenching on their reserves of ore; had no effect on the amount of waste rock sorted; and that the solitary observable effect of Chinese balour, so far as we have investigated, has been to raise the cost of production; that critic would, I think, be justified in looking upon Sir George Farrar's very natural assertion as to himself and his colleagues, as at least open to question.

But, ladies and gentlemen, a further examination of the records will show you that this impartial critic might after all be wrong in doubting Sir George Farrar's assurance as to his own intellectual condition.

The same Court of Appeal which we have already invoked—the record of what has actually

been accomplished since the introduction of Chinese—lays down very clearly that one most important change in the working of the mines has been achieved.

These records show that if Chinese have not enabled them to reduce the cost of working, or do any of the other things for which they were said to be introduced, they have enabled them to do this—they have enabled the mines to employ fewer white men than in the absence of Chinese they would have been forced to do.

That this is an incontestable fact I will show you, first taking the records of the mines as a whole, and then illustrating it by the experiences on one or two particular mines.

From the Government statistics you will find that from June, 1903, right through the period of the so-called labour shortage the mines which were producing were giving employment to about 220 white men for every 100 stamps they had to work. This number sank as low as 210 and 207 in February and March, 1904 (may one suggest just at the time when a lack of employment among the white population was useful in lending point to their arguments in favour of Chinese labour?) but it at once sprang up again in the following month, and in October of last year 224 white men were employed for every 100 stamps at work.

From this time on the Chinese arrived in force. Mark the effect! In December of last year, *i.e.*, two months later, 219 men only were employed for each 100 stamps at work! In February of this year, 208 men! In April, 202 men! In June, 199! And in August, the last month of which we have records, 195 white men only found employment for every 100 stamps at work!

Let me put these figures in another way. From June, 1903, to October, 1904, for every additional 100 stamps which were got to work these producing mines required and gave employment to 220 white men.

Then the effect of Chinese began to be felt. In the following five months, for each extra 100 stamps they got to work they required and gave employment to 142 white men only; that is 80 fewer than before! In the succeeding five months, which brings us to the end of August last, for every extra 100 stamps they got to work they required and gave employment to only 79 white men!

Now we have arrived at something clear. Now we shall see some really tangible result of Chinese importation. Now we know what value to attach to the declaration of our opponents that the importation of Chinese would increase the field of white employment.

We have seen that it was unnecessary for increasing their production; that it increases their costs, and that it has had none of the other effects which it was claimed it would have. And accepting Sir George Farrar's denial that he and his friends are fools, it is difficult to believe that the one tangible result of this importation, the one result which is in complete accord with the views expressed by them from time to time is the one result that they did not desire to achieve.

You heard Sir George Farrar in this hall try to explain away his famous "Voetzak" speech. I didn't; I only read it; and I am bound to say a lamer explanation one cannot conceive of from the veriest schoolboy.

Now it is never difficult to explain a slip of the tongue, which conveys an impression absolutely inconsistent with one's general views. But it is very hard to satisfactorily explain away words which are in exact tune with the very key-note of one's policy.

The root of the matter is that Sir George Farrar's policy has been, and is, a policy of "Voetzak." The main use of Chinese now appears to be to enable him to "Voetzak" from the mines white men whom he would be otherwise enforced to employ, and on whom he would be to that extent dependent.

Remember in considering the figures I have given you that had Chinese not come, as much would be done to-day as is being done, but that instead of 45,000 Chinese being employed, a very much larger number of white men would have been employed—skilled and unskilled, and without doubt more extra skilled white men than are to-day supervising coolies.

Now let me illustrate what I have already told you by taking one or two particular mines. I will take the Geldenhuis Deep and the Village Main Reef, the latter a mine with which I was at one time intimately acquainted.

On the Village Main Reef, in September, 1903, there were only 1,000 Kaffirs employed.

When I left that mine a month or two later the pro-Chinese people announced that they were going to discontinue the use of unskilled white men to supplement the native labour on that mine. Did they do so? Not a bit of it! Did they stop increasing their output of ore? Not at all!

In September, 1903, they mined and extracted the gold from between 17,000 and 18,000 tons of ore. In August, 1904, having steadily increased during that interval, they mined and extracted the gold from 29,000 tons of ore.

But you will say, I suppose, they were enabled to do so by recruiting more natives, and, like the other mines, draining the country and the farming industry of native labour? Oh, no, they didn't: they didn't increase their natives at all; in fact, in August, 1904, they had fewer natives than in September, 1903, for in August, 1904, they had only, I believe, 900 natives.

But I will tell you what they did do. Instead of reducing the number of white men, as they told you they were going to do, they increased them. They used nearly double the number of unskilled white men, and increased their number of skilled men.

In September, 1903, this mine was giving employment to, in all, 375 white men. In August, 1904, it was giving employment to about 530 white men, and had its full mill of 160 stamps running.

What, now, about their talk of the impossibility of increasing the number of stamps at work, without draining the country of natives; and when that is drained dry, going to China for coolies?

And what about costs? Was it so ruinous for them to continue this system? I will show you how ruinous it was.

In September, 1903, it was costing them (excluding development redemption, a book-entry

which was changed during the war, and which I accordingly eliminate)—it was costing them 20s. 6d. per ton mined and treated. In August, 1904, it was costing them 15s. 6d. per ton mined and treated. I have calculated these on the basis of tonnage mined to eliminate differences due to sorting and non-sorting.

I have been told they will tell you that this is all very well! the "Village" is a high-grade mine. Gentlemen, when this is told to you by people who do not know, you can tell them that they are mistaken. When it is told to you by people who do know, or should know, you can tell them that they are lying! The "Village Main Reef" is a mine producing ore of a lower grade than the average on these fields, whatever it may have been, as the monthly returns show.

Now look at the sequel! When the Chinese arrived they were put on some of the mines already running with natives.

Did these philanthropic gentlemen carry out their implied promises and turn these natives adrift to be used for the farms and for the development of the mines in the outside districts?

Not a bit of it! I don't know to what other place the balance of the displaced natives were allotted, but I do know that a large number of these natives were drafted to the "Village Main Reef"; so that by the end of December, 1904, the 900 natives they had in August had been increased to 1,968, as you will see in the Chamber of Mines Reports.

In that same quarter what was the effect of this increase of native labour? It did not enable them to drop more stamps, for they didn't drop a single stamp more! It did not enable them to decrease their costs, the costs for the December quarter showed an increase of Id. a ton on the previous quarter! It did not enable them to increase their sorting, but I will tell you what it did enable them to do; it enabled them to dismiss about 250 out of those 530 white men!

So much for Chinese labour giving employment indirectly to more white men!

Since that time they have further drained the country of native labour, and have increased their native supply up to some 2,300, and their costs have been reduced by 1s. 9d. a ton.

As, however, all through the previous year their costs showed a steady and continuous reduction, while using white men, it is quite obvious by this time that without this extra supply of natives they would have been working as cheaply and quite possibly more cheaply than they are to-day.

Now let us take the "Geldenhuis Deep." This mine was, before Chinese importation, using more white men than even, I believe, the "Village Main Reef."

You have seen in those days they were working more cheaply than they are to-day with the Chinese, and I am quite sure you will find that they are using very much fewer white men than they were before the Chinese came.

Now, I think I can put the matter before you in a way which will appeal more nearly to you than do these mining statistics.

It is all very well to show what is and what must be the effect of this Chinese labour in general terms; but what appeals to us, and what wakes us up to the fact that we are going the wrong road are the definite evils which we encounter along that road.

Now what do we find all round to-day? We find the farmers saying that their work has been brought to a standstill, because all the native labour is being absorbed by the Rand. In the course of my journeying through the country and visits to outside mining districts I hear the same tale. At Klerksdorp, on the new Tin Fields, and everywhere, it is the same story, "We can't get natives."

We find, again, Het Volk approaching the Chamber of Mines to see if employment cannot be found for some of the many white men born in this country, who are in want of work; and being told by the Chamber, that, I suppose as a great favour, they have made efforts and have succeeded in placing some of these.

We read in the Rand Aid Association Report complaints of the number of handy men—that is, of men ready to do any kind of work—who are continually coming to the Rand to starve, and invoking the authorities to do what they can to discourage immigration.

Now, isn't it a monstrous thing, that in a land crying aloud for labour and population, men born in this country, and men from our own Motherland, who come here in search of honest work; workmen of our own flesh and blood should be told to "Voetzak. We don't want you; we only want Chinese."

I ask you to look on this picture and on that! Which is better for the farmers, which is better for the struggling mines outside, which is likely to lead to general prosperity? Progress on the lines I have quoted as having been followed at the "Geldenhuis Deep," at the "Village Main Reef," and other mines before the Chinese were allowed to come in; or the progress along the line resulting from Chinese importation which diminishes not a jot the demand of the mines for natives (because Chinese are more costly than natives), or—mining as the "Village Main Reef" was, with fewer than six natives per stamp—and as the "Geldenhuis Deep" was with about seven or eight—and as other mines were?

What does working with six or seven natives per stamp mean? It means that the Rand would be using to-day only 50,000 natives or so, leaving the balance of the 91,000 natives they are actually absorbing, for the development of the rest of the country. And 40,000 natives would mean a good deal to you and to those who have small mines outside.

Don't be hoodwinked by their telling you that these mines are exceptional mines; they are exceptional only in this—that the efforts made on them to get along without natives were more earnest than on the mines which made up their minds to wait for Chinese and to get them.

Which system is better? Which is more likely to afford prosperity to us all and to afford work for the numbers of poor men anxious to earn their livelihood and be beholden to no one? The system that was being followed on the mines I have mentioned, which gave employment to some 300 white men for every 100 stamps at work—gave employment to these men not out of charity, but because they needed them—or this Chinese importation system, which, as we have seen on one mine alone, meant the getting rid of between 200 and 300 men? This system which we have seen from the general figures means a continually diminishing number of white

men being employed for the stamps at work—means 80 white men finding employment for each additional 100 stamps, instead of 220?

Which, again, is likely to add to the general prosperity? Are these Chinese going to add to the consuming power of the industrial centre? the consuming power on which the prospreity of the agricultural districts is dependent; or will the much larger number of white men who will find employment and settle down here when you repatriate the Chinese add more to that consuming power?

It is perfectly obvious which course is in the true interest of the country.

Now let me put before you another aspect of the question.

You were told, and you were rightly told, that the essence of the labour problem was not so much to get the stamps now erected into operation (though for this also, they said, Chinese were absolutely necessary), but that it was the enormous addition to the stamping power that was in contemplation.

They stated in 1903 that by 1908 they would require in all 367,000 coloured labourers on the Rand. It is quite obvious that if they carry out their scheme (and the lines they have followed since they got Chinese show that they mean to if you let them), they will require, and intend to have on the Rand, in a few years time, a quarter of a million Chinese coolies, living in their present state of restricted liberty.

Is there any man here who can contemplate with equanimity—after our experiences of the present instalment of 45,000—having shut up on the Rand, or attempting to shut up, a quarter of a million Chinese; that is to say, a number not far short of the whole white population of this country?

I am not going to say anything about the Chinese as Chinese. There may be, there probably are, as many or as few malefactors among 45,000 labouring men of the kind who would contract to serve under similar conditions of that race as of any other race. But if you wish to make trouble for yourself—if you wish to make crime and a tendency to crime among any body of men accustomed to be free—I don't care of what race or colour—you can go no better way about it than to import them wholesale and to make them work, for the benefit of a few among you, under conditions which violate every law of nature, and every tradition we have of decent liberty; conditions which make crimes of acts such as desertion, refusal to work, &c., that in other countries in themselves are no crimes, but merely matters between them and their employers to be settled in the Civil Courts.

But I don't think there is any need to further argue this point. The question has only to be put to the country and it will surely reply with one voice that it will not have a quarter of a million men of this kind shut up in our midst.

Clearly, therefore, the present 45,000 coolies can be no solution of the problem, to solve which they were introduced. Clearly, also, some other solution must be found. Clearly if a solution can be found for the greater problem of the immensely increased labour demand looming in the future, that solution is adequate also to solve the lesser problem of the demands of the present; and these 45,000 Chinese can be sent about their business as early as possible and with as little delay as need be.

What that solution is I have already indicated. It is to make the mines go on as some of them were doing before Chinese importation was sanctioned. It is to tell Sir George Farrar and his friends that this country is not going to be exploited for their benefit; that the people of this country are going to lay down laws under which the industries are to be worked; that one of these laws is going to be that they shall not be allowed to import indentured labour, and that if they do not know how to make use profitably of the labour they can get in this country and such as they can attract from Europe, they had better learn, and learn quickly, how to do so, for the country does not mean to wait for them to learn.

Well, I think I have now given you some answers to the threats of ruin to the Rand and to yourselves when you decide to send away the coolies. When they tell you it will mean stopping a third of their stamps you can point to the work they were doing with the Kaffirs they had; you can point to the Kaffirs they have, and by a simple rule of three you can show them that they need not hang up a stamp. You can point to the "Geldenhuis Deep," to the "Village," and to other mines, and tell them that if these can work with five or six natives a stamp, so can other big mines, and that instead of draining the country of natives, they had better use only 40,000 or 50,000 natives for their 7,000 stamps.

You can tell them that they had better use white men when we hear so much about unemployed distress, and leave the balance of the 90,000 natives they are now using for you to use in the country districts.

Don't let them hoodwink you with their talk about development and a hundred and one other things; tell them to go on with their work!

When they tell you that it will mean throwing several thousand white men out of work, you can tell them you now know better than to believe that; you can point to what coolie labour has done to displace white men, and you can tell them they had better not try to squeeze the white working population as they did in 1903, in the face of what we know now; and that you will endeavour to see that the Government makes them pay, and pay heavily, for any shutting down of a mine.

It is no good their telling us that sending away the Chinese will disorganise the industry; it will have to be done sooner or later; all they have to do is to divide the natives as they were before the Chinese came, and distribute the surplus among the extra mines which have since started, and that only until such time as they can gradually diminish their exorbitant demands, by their present system, on the native labour supply of the country.

Do not let them hoodwink you with their talk about the excessive cost of using white men. Point to the Geldenhuis Deep, the Village, and other mines, where white men have been used with success and economy, and tell them they must learn to do the same.

Do not let them talk about the cost of living and house rent. Point to the money they have been so eager to spend to bring in their Chinese—over a million sterling, according to

their own authorities—and point out to them that this million pounds, which they have thrown away, would build 3,500 cottages, which they could let rent free, or at a nominal rent, if the cost of living stands in the way.

Do not let them "fool" you by telling you that white men will not work here. I know, and you know, that white men will work here, and do work here well enough; and if they want them to work steadily they had better try and make the conditions such as will attract them to stay, and not tell them every day that the sooner they get out and make room for Chinese the better.

Mr. Drummond Chaplin, at the last meeting of the Chamber of Mines, produced a number of figures to show that the prosperity of the country was on the increase. But all that his figures mean is that in an expanding Colony the general volume of trade has expanded, and, as we have seen, this expansion has been in spite of Chinese, not because of the Chinese, and would have been greater if Mr. Chaplin and his allies had not been allowed to carry out their Chinese scheme.

His contention has no force at all, unless you admit that if Sir George Farrar, Mr. Drummond Chaplin, and the other Chinese importers do not have everything exactly to their liking the country must stop.

And this brings us right to the heart of the whole controversy. Is this country to be run to suit the wishes and capacities of these gentlemen, or is it to be run in the interest of the whole people of the Colony?

Is legislation to be enacted on such light and information as they may, in their wisdom, think fit to impart to us—on such lines as will just fall in with their ideas of what they can do? Or is it to be enacted, after a very thorough investigation of all the facts, and on such lines as we think best for us and for those who will come after us? If the former, I am sorry for us, and still sorrier for the kind of money-ridden generation who will succeed us. If the latter, then we must stand no nonsense, and legislation must be of such a kind that they shall not again have the power to flout the deliberate wishes of the people and say, as they did in 1903, "Very well, you may be against Chinese now, but we will make you shout for it before we have done with you."

I am sick, any of us who have had any experience of getting work done are sick, of this cry of "It can't be done."

All through this talk of "We can't get on without Chinese," I have been reminded—to compare great things with small—of a little experience of my own.

On a mine in this country which I was managing I decided one day that there was a tendency on the part of the heads of the departments to spend more money than was necessary, and that it required checking at once. The first chance came next day, when one of the head officials—a most able man—told me that he must have some additional staging erected in his branch of the work to enable him to get down to certain of his tanks. "Without it," he said, "I can't get to the place, especially at night. Why, last night I had the greatest difficulty in getting there." "But you got there?" said I. "Oh, yes! I got there, because I had to," was the reply. "All right," I said, "if you get there that's all right; we won't have any staging, and we'll keep the money in the bank!"

We didn't have the staging, but that part of the works went on quite merrily without. So I think in dealing with Mr. Drummond Chaplin and Sir George Farrar, as in dealing with humbler folk, the country can disregard this miserable cry of "We can't."

There are just two alternatives before the people of this Colony to-day, and it is for them to decide which they will choose.

The alternatives are, Chinese to supplement the supply of natives—Chinese who while they are here have to be shut up, confined, and kept as slaves, and not as free men.

Or white immigration, which will add to the strength, the wealth, and the prosperity of the country. White immigration, which, while helping in the work of exploiting the mines on the Rand, will gradually and by natural causes liberate the native labour, such as it is, for use in other districts.

Follow the one alternative, and you will find that natural causes will have their natural effect, as they are already having their natural effect. The mine financiers will in time be supreme, and the country will be gradually sucked dry for their benefit.

Follow it, and just as to-day their arguments against repatriation and against cessation of Chinese importation have the superficial force of deprecating upsetting vested interests, which the argument for its introduction two years ago lacked, so in five years' time you will find the force of these arguments on people so great that you will not be able to turn back.

To-day some people in this country are ready to sacrifice the unskilled men of our own race, whether born here or immigrant from Home.

These men are told that there can be no work for them on the mines. Voetzak is the word here, as well as on the railways, for people who are not disposed to accept the ideas of Sir George Farrar and Co.

Remember Æsop's fable of the members of the body conspiring against the stomach.

Remember the words of St. Paul which Lord Selborne quoted at the Crocodile River the other day.

The whole of this passage might have been written for this subject, especially the words, "The head cannot say to the feet, I have no need of thee; nay, much more those members of the body which seem to be more feeble are necessary."

You shut out and say "voetzak" to the poorest class who cannot defend themselves, and you put so much more power into the hands of those who would otherwise be dependent on the labour of free citizens, instead of on the labour of indentured serfs. And, put it as you will, serfdom it is.

Is the position of higher grades of labour likely to be any more secure?

When some coolies were put to do some painting work the other day on one of the mines, the skilled men were not able to bring enough pressure to bear to stop it.

With a quarter of a million Chinese as the backbone of the industry and the whole population dependent on them, which are going to the wall? Regulations for the protection of the skilled men, which the Chinese find irksome and their employers costly, or the men these regulations protect?

Or suppose you agree to sacrifice and eliminate the whole of the white labouring men—skilled and unskilled—and think to have only a trading population in your industrial centre.

Are you going to curtail Asiatic trading? Remember the result of bringing coolies to Natal and look at the coolie traders in the Transvaal to-day. Do not look upon this as something in the distant future—it has already begun. Already I am informed, and I believe the information to be correct—that a large proportion of the retail trade in the compounds is done by the coolies themselves.

And why should not the coolies trade among themselves and with their compatriots outside?

If the work on the mines is done by white men and natives they will trade with white men and natives. If the work on the mines is done by coolies the trade will be done by coolies, and if they cut you out, it is your own fault for bringing them here and keeping your own people out of the country.

It is quite impossible in the course of an address like this to deal one by one with every argument which the Chinese advocates advance; but I hope I have said enough to show you how hollow those arguments are, and to show you that the policy of insisting on the repeal of the Labour Ordinance is not one of mere opposition, and that it is identical with the constructive policy of building this Colony up as a country where we and the men of our race who will come after may live as a free, self-dependent, and self-supporting community; not as a community of hucksters and slave-drivers, not able and not willing to take any share in doing the work on the result of which we live, but depending on the labour of masses of aliens, who will begin by being our slaves, and end by being our masters.

Now, I have no doubt that it will occur to you, that if all I have been telling you is true we need not bother ourselves about the matter. If it is so costly the mine people themselves will give it up!

But just reflect for a moment. Remember they told everyone here and at Home, five times a week at least, that without Chinese coolies their mines were worthless. Are they the people to send the Chinese home? Are the investing public going to believe them when they say that all they said before was all nonsense? No! It is no use our waiting for them to admit that all they said before was "bunkum."

Mr. Reyersbach the other day, after giving a lot of figures showing how costly Chinese importation is, said that this showed in what straits the mine owners must have been before resorting to this measure. It shows nothing of the kind. When the Chamber of Mines made up their minds to "plump" for Chinese they thought they were going to get a yellow Kaffir. They find now they have something very different to this. They thought they were going to get a cheap yellow Kaffir, and they now find they have something again quite different to what they anticipated.

The country must take the matter into its own hands, and tell them firmly and gently that their coolies must go.

We have been told "ad nauseam" that this is a purely economic question; by which our friends apparently mean a question, the arguments on both sides of which are capable of being expressed in pounds, shillings, and pence, and a balance struck showing which is right.

Even on this, the lowest ground, we see they are hopelessly in the wrong.

But it is a question on which one has only to think for a minute to realise that it goes much deeper than this; that it goes right to the root of the whole range of social ideas which we European races have developed, ideas which form the basis upon which our whole social system is built. It is a question as between building this country up as what will be, in the essence, a Slave State, and building it up as a Free White Country.

Some people call the abhorrence of anything approaching to slavery mere sentiment.

It appeals to me as one of the most practical of those instincts which are engrained in us as a people.

It seems to me that any man who tries to look into the future by the light of the past, can account for this instinct in a very practical way. For if there is one lesson more clear than another, which history seems to teach, it is this: "That any branch of our race which has been seduced into exploiting an inferior race of serfs for its own prosperity; that branch has been lopped off by remorseless nature and swept into the limbo of those things which she never meant should be."

One thing more. I often hear in the country districts that Johannesburg cares not a jot about anything but itself. No greater mistake was ever made. There are as many men in Johannesburg and on the Rand—I do not care whether Progressives or Responsibles—who are as anxious for the good of the country as any in the country districts.

But I would ask any of these, who are of the Chinese persuasion, and who may happen to be here—and I ask it in all earnestness—whether their opinions have not been formed in entire or nearly entire ignorance of some of the facts I have brought before you to-night? If they have, I would further ask them on no account to take my word for these facts, but to verify them for themselves, and, having verified them, to modify their opinions accordingly.

And if I have been able to throw any new light on this subject—if I have been able to show a good cause why it behoves us all to be active on this question, then I most earnestly hope that when the elections for the new Legislature take place, you will see to it that candidates for your suffrages are not allowed to "wobble" on this question, but are made to declare themselves on one side or the other to declare themselves either for repeal or for a quarter of a million Chinese.

We do not want any mending of this policy; we want the ending of it.

Sir Somers Vine said he accepted the Chairman's invitation to say a few words with some diffidence; although there was complete justification for his doing so by reason of the fact that

he (the speaker) had interests in the Colony and was a registered voter. During the last fifteen years he had spent long periods in every part of South Africa, and could claim to have a fair knowledge of its diverse problems. His diffidence was largely due to his having come here as an impartial listener, and one to whom many friends in England looked for fair information on certain subjects. There was also the added diffidence arising from his having entertained somewhat contrary views to his old friend, Mr. Creswell, in point of detail, on this important matter of Chinese labour. That diffidence, however, did not diminish his regard for his friend's thorough honesty of purpose and admitted ability to deal with this burning question. It was impossible to have heard Mr. Creswell's statements without being deeply impressed and naturally startled. Mr. Creswell was not a man to think or talk wildly on any topic, and that being so it would not do for advocates and supporters of the Chinese importation to dismiss his conclusions and figures with disdainful comment or airy sarcasm. It was essential that they should be met with sober criticism, and also, if they could be, with solid facts. Mr. Creswell asserted that the importation of Chinese labour had markedly decreased the employment of white men, an unfortunate consequence, as his statistics went to show, without any appreciable advantage to mine shareholders or the material progress of the country. There could be no flatter contradiction to the mine-owner's contentions. His deductions were either true or they were not, and should be amenable to ready tests. He (the speaker) had witnessed with his own eyes during the late stages of the war the wide-spread demoralisation of native labour, and as one who thought and maintained that capital and labour had equal rights as well as responsibilities, he—in common with many others—had held the view that the mine owners were justified in seeking to tide over temporary difficulties by temporary methods, although on general grounds they had always entertained serious misgivings in respect of imported Oriental labour. He had a considerable admiration for the best form of Chinese labourers and peasants. He had observed the useful results of their capable industry in many parts of the world, but that had not blinded him to the unavoidable ill-effects which must certainly ensue from permanently establishing Oriental labour in what is and should be a white man's country. He thought the mine owners had themselves much to blame for the suspicion and enmity which had been roused against them and their policy. They and their friends were too prone to encounter opposition with violent language rather than sound argument, and they had done much to encourage bad feeling by overbearing disparagement of other people's opinions. Some of their ends had also been gained by sinister tactics, which were repellent to British notions of square controversy. They had lately witnessed this deplorable tendency in other directions.

Their best thanks were due to Mr. Creswell for his speech, and surely it was not too much to hope that it might aid right-thinking men to discern the wise course to be taken in a matter fraught with such lasting consequence to the Colony.

It was proposed by Dr. Ramsey and seconded by Mr. Conradie:—"That this meeting is of opinion that Chinese labour is not only unnecessary but is seriously harmful to the best interests of this country, and expresses its urgent desire that the earliest possible steps be taken to repeal the Ordinance with the exception of such clauses therein as may be absolutely necessary for the carrying out of contracts legally entered into, and which must not be renewed."

"That copies of this resolution be forwarded to His Excellency the High Commissioner, and to the Secretary of State for the Colonies."

The resolution was put to a show of hands, and carried by an overwhelming majority.

Votes of thanks were then unanimously passed to Mr. Creswell and the Chairman.

No. 7.

Governor the EARL OF SELBORNE to Mr. LYTTELTON.

(Received November 18, 1905.)

[*Acknowledged by No.* 24.]

Sir, Governor's Office, Johannesburg, October 30, 1905.

I have the honour to enclose, for your information, a copy of a letter from the Secretary, Transvaal Political Labour League, on the subject of Chinese labour.

I have, &c.,
SELBORNE,
Governor.

Enclosure in No. 7.

Secretary, Transvaal Labour League, to High Commissioner.

The Transvaal Political Labour League,
Provisional Central Executive, P.O. Box 3601,

Your Excellency, Johannesburg, October 24, 1905.

I am instructed to communicate to you the following resolution, passed at a meeting of the above Executive:—

"That, in the opinion of this Executive, it is in the best interests of the

workers that the Chinese labour experiment be terminated at the earliest possible moment, and that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to His Excellency the High Commissioner, with a request that it be forwarded to the Secretary of State for the Colonies."

I am, &c.,
ALEXANDER HOSSACK,
Secretary.

To His Excellency
The High Commissioner of South Africa.

No. 8.

GOVERNOR THE EARL OF SELBORNE to MR. LYTTELTON.

(Received 6.30 p.m., November 24, 1905.)

TELEGRAM.

[*Answered by No.* 12.]

November 24. No. 1. Your telegram of 25th October, No. 2.* When Lawley sent telegram referred to, only three contracts were submitted and approved. Only one has been submitted since. Agreement has been arrived at with mining interest whereunder all future contracts in writing would be submitted to Superintendent, who would make himself responsible that they were fully explained to labourers. I am informed that verbal agreements can be determined at any time by either party. Jamieson sees no objection to boss boys receiving bonuses, as it is an incentive to them to get as much work out of their gangs as possible.

No. 9.

GOVERNOR THE EARL OF SELBORNE to MR. LYTTELTON.

(Received 12 midnight, December 2, 1905.)

TELEGRAM.

December 2. No. 3. Matter most urgent. Substance of report† is as follows:—

It is not denied that before June, 1905, corporal punishment was used on mines as disciplinary measure, and where used was inflicted in manner described by Boland; that is, in manner adopted by Chinese Court of Justice. Charge that average number of coolies flogged daily on Witwatersrand Mine was 42 is stated by mine authorities to be absolute exaggeration to extent of 75 per cent. Allegations as to use made of horizontal beam in lockup refuted. Beam is placed in lockup not as instrument of punishment but as measure of precaution to keep persons temporarily detained in lockup away from each other. It is placed in most comfortable position possible for prisoners.

As regards Nourse Deep, affidavits are forwarded showing that Boland's informant, whilst directly responsible for well-being of coolies, was himself the author of their ill-treatment, which led to serious discontent amongst them. He has since resigned his appointment as Chinese compound manager on the mine and returned to China. Charges made by him cannot be relied on.

Two coolies were arrested and convicted of attack on Cann's house. No arrest made in case of assault on Mrs. Sullivan. Police have no knowledge of attack on farmhouse at Vischkuil. Alleged fierce fight on the occasion of fire at New Primrose Mine wholly exaggeration and arose out of efforts of cordon of Zulu police to keep spectators at safe distance. No serious disturbance occurred.

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* No. 4.

† See Nos. 3 and 5.

With regard to last sentence of Boland's letter, coolie convicted of indecent assault and case duly reported in local press.

Statement made by Mackarness that Chinese done out of minimum wage by being forced to undertake contract work absolutely untrue. I am satisfied that use of Chinese form of punishment illustrated in photographs accompanying Mackarness's letter has been wholly discontinued since June last.

No. 10.

GOVERNOR THE EARL OF SELBORNE to MR. LYTTELTON.

(Received December 4, 1905.)

SIR, Governor's Office, Johannesburg, November 13, 1905.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch dated the 31st March last,* transmitting correspondence on the subject of the allotment system in connection with the importation of Chinese labourers into the Transvaal.

2. In reply, I beg to state that the Superintendent of the Foreign Labour Department is of opinion that there is considerable force in the statements made by Mr. Flaherty with regard to the defects and abuses of the present system, but at the same time he considers it would be inadvisable to discard this system until arrangements have been made for replacing it by a better and more workable scheme.

3. The establishment of a new system is engaging the attention of the Foreign Labour Department, and it is hoped that new arrangements will shortly be introduced. A further despatch will be addressed to you on their completion.

I have, &c.,
SELBORNE,
Governor.

No. 11.

MR. LYTTELTON to GOVERNOR THE EARL OF SELBORNE.

(Sent 7.40 p.m., December 4, 1905.)

TELEGRAM.

[*See No.* 23.]

December 4. No. 2. Your despatches, 18th September, 30th October.* I certainly think that recruiting of labourers from tropical regions should cease after January, 1906, if the rate of mortality, which is still on a level with that of British Central African natives, about which I wrote to Lord Milner at the beginning of the year, continues. Such a rate must be regarded as prohibitive of the encouragement by the Government of the employment of these labourers in the mines.

No. 12.

MR. LYTTELTON to GOVERNOR THE EARL OF SELBORNE.

(Sent 5.55 p.m., December 5, 1905.)

TELEGRAM.

December 5. No. 1. Your telegram, 24th November, No. 1.† I cannot approve use of verbal agreements. All contracts must be in writing and be submitted to

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* Not printed: see pages 133–136 for information as to rate of mortality. † No. 8.

Superintendent. Superintendent and Inspectors should carefully watch results of agreement for bonuses to boss boys and report as to working of system, which is open to abuse.

No. 13.

COLONIAL OFFICE to Mr. C. H. NORMAN.

Sir, Downing Street, December 8, 1905.

I am directed by Mr. Secretary Lyttelton to inform you, with reference to the letter from this Department of the 2nd of November,* that a searching enquiry was directed by Mr. Lyttelton into certain allegations made by Mr. Boland on 6th of September.† The investigation is now concluded, but the full report of it has not reached England, and Mr. Lyttelton has only as yet received by telegraph a summary account of its result. Mr. Lyttelton gathers from this that while some of Mr. Boland's statements are inaccurate or exaggerated others are well-founded.

2. Mr. Lyttelton understands, however, that all corporal punishment inflicted by the orders of the mine managers has been wholly discontinued since last June, while a system of inspection and regulation has been instituted which it is believed will prevent all possibility of the recurrence of such practices.

3. Mr. Lyttelton has communicated with the Governor in regard to the prosecution of those who may have been shown to be guilty by the enquiry which has taken place. While the question of such prosecutions is yet pending, it will be obviously impossible to publish the detailed report.

I am, &c.,
M. F. OMMANNEY.

No. 14.

Governor the EARL OF SELBORNE to Mr. LYTTELTON.

(Received December 9, 1905.)

[*See No.* 21.]

Sir, Governor's Office, Johannesburg, November 20, 1905.

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch of 16th September‡ respecting certain allegations of ill-treatment of Chinese coolies employed on the Witwatersrand, made by Mr. F. C. Boland, in a letter to the "Morning Leader," of the 6th September, and by Mr. Mackarness, in a letter to the "Westminster Gazette," of the 7th September.

2. I will deal with Mr. Boland's allegations first.

3. You will agree with me that if Mr. Boland had good reason to believe that outrages such as he describes were being committed, his first duty was to bring them to the notice of the Superintendent of Foreign Labour, in order that that officer might take steps to identify and prosecute the offenders.

4. I enclose copies of correspondence exchanged between Mr. Boland and the Superintendent of Foreign Labour, and of a letter from Mr. Boland published in the Transvaal "Leader," which gave rise to this correspondence.

5. The reference in the first paragraph of Mr. Jamieson's letter of the 15th November is to a conversation which he had with Mr. Boland, on the subject of

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* Not printed. † See No. 1. ‡ No. 3.

certain articles published by the latter in the local press. In the course of this interview, Mr. Boland gave Mr. Jamieson to understand that his business as a journalist was not so much to bring alleged cases of outrages to the notice of the proper authorities, as to manufacture from them sensational articles for publication in the press. It is therefore necessary to subject Mr. Boland's statements to careful scrutiny. Now, it is not denied and indeed I have already informed you, that prior to June, 1905, illegal corporal punishment, after trial by the mine authorities, was widely resorted to, as a disciplinary measure on the mines of the Witwatersrand; and it cannot be disputed that where administered, it was administered in the manner described in Mr. Boland's letter, *i.e.*, in a manner borrowed from the practice of the Chinese Courts of Justice. I do not defend such proceedings, but I repeat what I have already stated, that I am convinced that they have entirely ceased since Mr. Jamieson's assumption of office as Superintendent of Foreign Labour.

6. I will now deal with Mr. Boland's specific allegations in order.

7. He states that on the Witwatersrand mine, "the average number of coolies flogged daily for one month early this year was 42, Sundays included." As to this I invite your attention to the accompanying copy of a letter addressed by the General Manager to his Directors, enclosing a report by the Chinese Compound Manager. This letter was written on the publication in the Johannesburg "Daily Express" of a reproduction of Mr. Boland's letter to the "Morning Leader." The fact that flogging was practised on the mine is admitted, but the Chinese Compound Manager, as you will observe, characterises Mr. Boland's statement, which I have quoted, as "an absolute exaggeration to the extent of about 75 per cent.," and states that on Sundays no punishment of any kind was ever inflicted. It is further denied that any official was ever employed to keep a record of punishments or that Chinese interpreters were ever used by the Compound Manager of the Witwatersrand mine. The statements made later on in Mr. Boland's letter as to the use of a horizontal beam in the lock-up, of the Witwatersrand mine, are also, as you will observe, refuted in the General Manager's and Chinese Compound Manager's reports. The reason why such a beam is placed in the lock-up is, to my mind, satisfactorily explained. If the ringleaders in a riot between coolies were placed in the lock-up, prior to trial, without being fastened to a beam to keep them apart from each other, further fighting and probably bloodshed would ensue.

8. As to Mr. Boland's statement with regard to the Witwatersrand Deep mine, the Superintendent of Foreign Labour has not yet received any reply to the enquiries which he has addressed to the management. I hear from him, however, that illegal flogging was carried on on this as on other mines prior to June, 1905. The mine is a large one, employing over 3,000 Chinese, who comprise an unusually large proportion of turbulent characters. It may incidentally be mentioned that the coolies on this particular mine have of their own accord petitioned the Superintendent of Foreign Labour that corporal punishment may be once more resorted to for offences committed by them. I need not say that I have no intention of acceding to this request, but the fact, about which there is no error or contrivance, shows how accustomed the Chinese are to this method of punishment, and how completely it has been stopped on the Witwatersrand.

9. With regard to his statement as to punishment inflicted on the Nourse Deep, Mr. Boland appears to have been unfortunate in the source from which he has derived his information. I enclose a copy of a letter from the Secretary to the Nourse Deep, Limited, covering a letter and an affidavit from the Acting Manager of the mine. From the Acting Manager's letter you will see that there can be no doubt that Mr. Boland's informant is a Mr. H. J. Pless, who was at one time Chinese Compound Manager on this mine, but who has since left the service of the Company, and has returned to China. I will add nothing to the Acting Manager's letter and affidavit, and to the affidavit by the Hospital Attendant at the mine. These documents are a sufficient refutation of Mr. Boland's charges so far as they concern the management of the mine, and show clearly that for the whole period during which Mr. Boland states that the Chinese were being ill-treated, Mr. Pless was himself directly responsible for their well-being and yet himself was the author of the ill-treatment. I cannot sufficiently express my detestation of such an outrage as that stated in the Hospital Attendant's affidavit to have been perpetrated by Mr. Pless

upon one of the coolies under his care. But it is obvious that if Mr. Pless's treatment of the coolies was such as to produce a state of discontent among them, which eventually led to his own resignation, charges against the management of the mine, based upon information supplied by him, cannot be relied upon.

10. Mr. Boland also refers to the attack by some Chinese coolies on the house of a farmer named Cann, at Klipfontein, and to the assault on Mrs. Sullivan.. In the case of the former outrage, two coolies were arrested, and, on conviction, sentenced to two years' imprisonment and 15 lashes. No arrests have, unfortunately, been made in connection with the latter.

11. So far as I am aware no attack was made by a band of Chinese on a farm house at Vischkuil. The police have never heard of such an incident.

12. The description of "a fierce fight" between Chinese coolies and Zulu police on the occasion of a fire at the New Primrose mine, is a wholly unnecessary exaggeration of a trifling incident. What actually happened was that a fire broke out at the mine, and a number of Chinese coolies, attracted by the spectacle, came to the scene, as any other body of human beings would have done, to watch what was going on. They thus came into contact with a cordon of Zulu police, who were keeping spectators at a safe distance from the fire. The coolies wished to get a closer view of the fire, and the Zulu police in the performance of their duty kept them back. A certain amount of struggling and pushing took place, but no serious disturbance ensued, and the description of what occurred as "fierce fighting" is absurd.

13. With regard to the last paragraph of Mr. Boland's letter, the facts are that a Chinese coolie was convicted on the charge of indecent assault. The statement that the matter was not mentioned in the daily press is untrue. I enclose a notice of the case which appeared in the Transvaal "Leader" of the 15th September.

14. The statements contained in Mr. Mackarness's letter to the "Westminster Gazette," of the 7th September, are of too general a character to admit of specific investigation. I am assured, however, by the Superintendent of Foreign Labour, that the statement quoted by Mr. Mackarness, that the Chinese are "illegally done out of their minimum wage of 1s. per day, by being forced to undertake contract work" is untrue. No coolie is forced to do contract work, and if he is not on contract work he can claim 1s. a day. All piece-work contracts, which are for a definite time, are in writing, and under an arrangement recently arrived at between the Chamber of Mines and the Foreign Labour Department, are submitted to the Superintendent of Foreign Labour or to one of his inspectors, before being signed by the coolies. The Superintendent, or inspector, satisfies himself that the coolie understands the terms of the contract and signs it voluntarily. Mr. Mackarness's letter is accompanied by a reproduction of a photograph of a Chinese coolie being punished by being made to wear what is termed in China the "cangue." Mr. Mackarness's description of this form of punishment is substantially accurate. I absolutely condemn its use, which is clearly illegal, but as in the case of flogging, I am quite satisfied that this form of punishment has been wholly discontinued since June last.

I have, &c.,
SELBORNE,
Governor.

Enclosure 1 in No. 14.

SUPERINTENDENT, Foreign Labour Department, to Mr. BOLAND.

(By hand.)

DEAR SIR, November 15, 1905.

YOU were good enough to call on me some three months ago, with reference to certain articles you had written on the subject of the treatment of Chinese coolies.

In a recent letter to the "Transvaal Leader," on the same topic, you cast on His Majesty's Government an imputation of *mala fides* in their dealings with this matter.

I would, therefore, wish to inform you that I am prepared to afford you every opportunity of making good your statements, and if you will kindly come and see me at your convenience, I will discuss with you the course of procedure I propose to adopt.

I am, &c.,

Superintendent,
Foreign Labour Department.

Frank C. Boland, Esquire.

Dear Sir, "The King's Hotel," Johannesburg, November 16, 1905.

I am in receipt of your letter of the 15th instant. You must pardon me if I take exception to your statement that in my letter to the "Transvaal Leader" I impute "*Mala fides*" to His Majesty's Government.

I submit that my observation in reference to Mr. Lyttelton's promised enquiry (to which I presume you allude) bears no such interpretation.

With regard to your information that you are "prepared to afford me every opportunity to make good my statements," while thanking you for the offer, I may observe that you seem to wish to place me virtually in the position of a prosecutor, without any of the legal means of proceeding with the case.

Obviously my statements cannot possibly be substantiated or disproved before any private person or persons, however independent or unprejudiced.

It seems perfectly clear to me that until a Commission or some legally constituted tribunal, clothed with necessary power to examine witnesses, is appointed, I am helpless in the matter. Nor do I see how, in the absence of some such tribunal, I can be reasonably invited to take the initiative in such an investigation upon myself.

However, I have thought it only right, in replying to your courteous letter, to state thus clearly my own views of the matter; and let me add that I shall be happy to call upon you as suggested at any time you care to appoint.

Believe me, &c.,
Frank C. Boland.

F. Jamieson, Esq.,
Superintendent, Foreign Labour Department.

Extract from "Transvaal Leader," November 13. 1905.
To the Editor of the "Leader."

Sir,

In your issue of November 10th you comment upon certain Chinese labour articles, written by me months ago for the "London Morning Leader," and you speak of "Boland's Wicked Allegations." These "allegations," as you choose to term them, cannot be decided one way or the other by *ex parte* statements. When Mr. Lyttelton's long-promised enquiry is held (if ever it is held) the truth or falsity of my "wicked allegations" will, no doubt, be disclosed.

I am, &c.,
Frank C. Boland.

Johannesburg, November 12.

Enclosure 2 in No. 14.

The Witwatersrand Gold Mining Company, Limited (Knight's).

Dear Sir, Head Office, Johannesburg, November 11, 1905.

In reply to your letter of the 31st October, when the matter in question came under the notice of the Board in the month of August, it was immediately dealt

with, as will be seen from copies of reports enclosed herewith, one by Mr. Prout, Manager of the mine, the other by Mr. Bianchini, the Manager of the compound. I have discussed the matter further with the Manager this morning, and I am assured by him that since the circular was issued by the Chamber of Mines Labour Agency not a single case of whipping has taken place upon the mine.

I am, &c.,
J. Dale Lace,
Chairman.

The Superintendent,
Foreign Labour Department,
Johannesburg.

The Witwatersrand Gold Mining Company, Limited.

Dear Sir, Mine Office, Knight's, August 28, 1905.

I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your favour of the 25th instant, dealing with the treatment of the Company's coolies, also copy of the "Daily Express" of 23rd instant, kindly forwarded by you.

The following is a copy of the report of the Compound Manager on the subject :—

"August 27, 1905.

"*Re* article in the 'Daily Express' of August 23, 1905.

"'Punishing coolies.' Would say that the entire article is, from beginning to end, a tissue of flagrant lies, and where facts are at all approached, they are terribly distorted. For instance, the first statement regarding the average of men flogged daily, such number as stated in the article is an absolute exaggeration to the extent of about 75 per cent. Furthermore, Sundays, no punishment of any kind was ever inflicted. The paper states that this information was given by an official whose duty it was to make a record of every man punished. In refutation of this particular statement, would say that no such an official was every employed and no such record was ever kept.

"In the next paragraph, reference is made to Chinese interpreters being used by Compound Manager. This statement is also false in every detail, and nobody conversant with the facts could have made such statements without malice.

"The interpreters employed by the mine were allotted as follows :—One to mine captain, one to engineer, one to central shaft, cyanide and time offices (this last one is an indentured coolie), and they were on no occasion used by the compound officials, nor were they allowed in the compound, except to bring messages from the different departments.

"*Re* statement Witwatersrand Lock-up, would say that such lock-up is the original house of detention used in the old kaffir days, and has been changed in no way, except that sleeping boards have been provided. The beam mentioned in the article referred to, is actually 16 inches high from the floor, and not two feet as erroneously stated. Anyone, irrespective of size or age, handcuffed to said rail, can easily sit or lie down without even inconvenience, much less without distortion of the muscles of any part of the body, as stated.

"E. Bianchini,
"Chinese Compound Manager."

In supplementing Mr. Bianchini's report, I would draw attention to the fact that the writer of the article in the "Daily Express" does not accuse the Company of practising any form of torture on the coolies, except in the lock-up, but distinctly states that the coolies were given a fair trial and punished according to their crime. In every case where a coolie has been accused of wrong doing, he has been given

every facility possible to prove his innocence, and only in cases where no doubt existed as to the boy's guilt were punishments given. Flogging with a bamboo, as described in the article, has never taken place on the mine.

That the alleged torturing of prisoners by placing them in awkward positions in the lock-up is untrue can be proved at any time by an inspection of the place.

The beam referred to was fixed in what was considered the most comfortable position for the prisoners. The lock-up is used as a place of detention of offenders until such time as they can be taken to Germiston Charge Office; if not kept as prisoners during this time every one would desert from the mine. At first offenders were locked in this room without any other restraint, but the continual fighting and other offences that occurred made it necessary to place handcuffs on the prisoners; fighting still continued, and after several coolies had been very seriously injured by the use of the handcuffs in fighting, it was found necessary to fasten them to the beam referred to. Among the Chinese employed on the mine there are between 200 and 300 hardened criminals, many of them being assassins, who boast of the number of murders they have committed; these fellows require careful watching, as they are constantly in possession of dangerous weapons, as knives, dynamite, &c.; only a week or two ago some coolies exploded a charge of dynamite, luckily a light charge, under Messrs. Ginsberg's store and destroyed a portion of the building. It must be admitted that strong measures are necessary in dealing with such fellows.

No punishment to coolies has been administered on the mine since the Chamber of Mines circular 9.a. of 16th June, 1905, was issued. Offenders are now charged at the Germiston Magistrate's Court, the time of the Compound Manger being largely occupied in this work. At first this way of dealing with offenders was fairly satisfactory, but now, owing to the light sentences given, the desired effect is not obtained; for instance, on July 31st, seven coolies were sentenced to two months' imprisonment each for refusing to work. On the 21st instant, four others were sentenced to three weeks each for the same offence, and on the 24th, six others were sentenced to two weeks each only. The reason for this leniency is probably due to the fact that there are now more Chinese prisoners in Germiston than there is accommodation for. Although it is illegal for punishment of any kind to be administered to coolies on the mines, it is the only way in which they can be properly managed. When offences are dealt with on the mine, serious cases were of rare occurrence, and the boy's worked fairly satisfactorily knowing that if they committed any offence, they would be immediately tried and, if proved guilty, punished. At present assaults on the white miners and insubordination are of almost daily occurrence, and we lose many good miners for this reason. It is quite possible that before long the miners on the Chinese mines will combine and demand that protection of some kind be provided underground; the question has already been raised. The whole matter would be satisfactorily settled if a magistrate were appointed, at or near each mine, with power to inflict corporal punishment of some kind on offenders; imprisonment alone will probably prove a failure, as it has no terror in this country to the Chinese criminal. The large number of deserters from the mines and the crimes committed by them in outlying districts were unheard of until the coolies knew that corporal punishment could no longer be inflicted on them.

I am, &c.,

W. M. Prout,

General Manager.

Enclosure 3 in No. 14.

Nourse Deep, Limited.

The Corner House, Johannesburg, November 17, 1905.

Sir, Treatment of Chinese Labourers.

In compliance with the request contained in your letter, No. 62/52, of 31st ultimo, enclosing copy of an extract from a letter from Mr. F. C. Boland, published in the "Morning Leader" of 6th September last, relative to the flogging of Chinese

and the use of other forms of torture at the Nourse Deep, Limited, I now have the honour to send you the following :—

(1) Copy of report dated 14th instant, from the Acting Manager of the mine, Mr. H. Musson Thomas, addressed to the General Manager of this Company.

(2) Affidavit by Mr. Thomas.

(3) Affidavit by Mr. A. J. McCarthy, white hospital attendant at this Company's Chinese hospital.

I have, &c.,
H. A. Read,
Secretary.

The Superintendent,
Foreign Labour Department,
Johannesburg.

Nourse Deep, Limited.

Mine Office, Denver, November 14, 1905.

Dear Sir, Treatment of Chinese Labourers.

In accordance with your request, I now beg to report as follows upon the statements made by Mr. F. C. Boland, which appeared in the "Morning Leader" on the 6th September, 1905, relative to the treatment of Chinese labourers on this mine :—

(1.) I attach hereto my own affidavit of facts, and the affidavit of Mr. A. J. McCarthy, white hospital attendant, also with regard to the facts, and would draw your attention particularly to the photographing of a Chinese coolie in the house of the late Chinese Controller, Mr. H. J. Pless, and the subsequent facts sworn to by Mr. McCarthy.

(2.) It is obvious from the tenor of the statements in Mr. Boland's letter that his source of information was Mr. H. J. Pless, whose period of service as Chinese Controller, was from 11th April, 1905, to 29th July, 1905, and I think that Mr. Boland would have been better advised had he first satisfied himself by enquiry that his source of information was trustworthy.

Dealing generally with the statements made in Mr. Boland's letter, I submit the following criticism :—

(3.) The general allegations as to the flogging of coolies who had not drilled their 36 inches per shift are, of course, absolutely untrue; attached hereto is an extract from the Company's records showing the average number of coolies for the months of April, May, June and July who had not drilled 36 inches, from which it will be seen that if Mr. Boland's inferences were correct, the number of coolies to be flogged daily would have been absurd.

(4.) The statement that the "Management urged the Chinese Controller to do something" is correct, I certainly did urge him to "do something," and that was his duty. The Chinese are now doing excellent work and are quite contented, simply because the present Controller is doing his duty and is a Controller in the sense which the word conveys.

Any grievance or complaint lodged by any of the coolies is immediately investigated, and, if well founded, the cause is removed. Whenever a coolie is dissatisfied with the Controller's ruling he is given every facility to lay his grievance before the Foreign Labour Department. If Mr. Pless had exercised better judgment and used more sympathy in dealing with the numerous complaints from both white employees and coolies, there would have been no necessity for me to ask him to "do something."

(5.) The statement regarding the Chinese Controller having resigned in consequence of his "policy" not suiting, and the inference that the management wished him to thrash the coolies as they were not maintaining the monthly increase, is

easily refuted. It will be seen from the attached copy of Mr. Pless's resignation that it was dated 29th May, 1905, up to which time and until the end of June steady progress was made in the efficiency of the coolies employed on hand-drilling. Attached to my affidavit is a statement showing the monthly average of inches drilled per man per shift, month by month, since the introduction of Chinese labour, and it will be seen therefrom that the record is one of steady progress, with the exception of July and August, in the case of the first shipment, the cause of which is explained in my affidavit.

The coolies are paid according to the inches drilled, so they have every inducement to increase their efficiency.

The scale of pay is as follows :—

Halfpenny per inch, with the following bonuses for 36 inches or more drilled in any one shift, viz. :—

A bonus of twopence (2d.) for 36 inches to 41 inches, inclusive.
„ threepence (3d.) for 42 inches to 47 inches „
„ fourpence (4d.) for 48 inches to 53 inches „
„ fivepence (5d.) for 54 inches to 59 inches „
„ sixpence (6d.) for 60 inches to 65 inches „
„ sevenpence (7d.) for 66 inches to 71 inches „
„ eightpence (8d.) for 72 inches or more.

(6.) Mr. Pless's indignation at the unjust treatment of the Chinese referred to in Mr. Boland's letter, may be noted with interest in the light of Mr. A. J. McCarthy's affidavit; had the treatment of a coolie described by Mr. McCarthy come to my notice it would have assured Pless's instant dismissal. I have no proof that Pless took any more photographs of the kind described, but in view of his desire to write a book on "Slave driving on the Rand," I think it may be assumed that the occurrence was not the only one of the kind, and that his motives were undoubtedly sinister.

A photograph of a coolie taken as described by Mr. McCarthy is very easily faked to represent the coolie strung up to a wall, and a cartoon or photographic reproduction of the kind has been extensively circulated, which I have seen.

(7.) As a result of Mr. Pless's incompetence and injudicious method of control, he left our Chinese coolies in a most uncertain temper. Two head men in charge of gangs were reduced in rank and this led to a riot, when all the head men and some coolies were arrested for refusing to work.

Their fines being paid, the head men immediately afterwards apologised to me, and said that now that the new Controller was listening to and investigating their grievances, they would work well. They are now doing excellent work without the infliction of any of the punishment or tortures mentioned in Mr. Boland's letter.

In conclusion, I would state that Mr. Pless left the Chinese compound in a most unsatisfactory and discontented state, and that he was proved to have been most incompetent and to have absolutely no control over the coolies.

I am glad to have had the opportunity of refuting Mr. Boland's statements.

H. Musson Thomas,
Acting Manager.

The General Manager,
Nourse Deep, Limited.

P.S.—With reference to paragraph 2 and 3 of Mr. McCarthy's affidavit, I should like to make it clear that all Chinese coolies sent to the hospital for treatment pass through Mr. McCarthy's hands.

H. M. T.

NOURSE DEEP, LIMITED.

SCHEDULE of Chinese coolie labourers who performed Hand-Drilling Operations of under 36 inches per day from April to July, 1905.

Month.	Coolies ex S.S. "Inkum" on Hammers.	Number under 36 inches.	Coolies ex S.S. "Sikh" on Hammers.	Number under 36 inches.	Total.
1905.					
April	371	88	—	—	88
May	375	90	164	164	254
June	363	106	297	242	348
July	369	178	281	234	412

H. MUSSON THOMAS,
Acting Manager.

Nourse Deep, Limited,
November, 1905.

AFFIDAVIT.

I, HARRY MUSSON THOMAS, Acting Manager of the Nourse Deep, Limited, having read the statements made by Mr. F. C. Boland, relative to the treatment of the Chinese labourers on this mine, in the letter which appeared in the "Morning Leader," a newspaper published in London, under date 6th September, 1905, make oath and say:—

(1.) I went to the Nourse Deep, Limited, on 1st June, 1905, prior to my taking over the duties of Acting Manager, to which position I was appointed on the 17th June, 1905, and which I now hold. The following statements have reference to my period of office as Acting Manager.

(2.) The statements contained in the first three paragraphs of Mr. Boland's letter relating to the Nourse Deep, regarding the flogging of Chinese coolies are, to the best of my knowledge and belief, false, as also the statement that "many of the Coolies thus flogged were sent to the hospital to recover," in connection with which I attach hereto an affidavit from Mr. A. J. McCarthy, white hospital attendant at the Company's Chinese hospital.

(3.) Regarding the fourth paragraph of Mr. Boland's letter, the following is a statement of the monthly average number of inches drilled per man per shift from the arrival of the Chinese:—

RECORD of Hand-Drilling performed by Chinese coolie labourers from their introduction to October 31, 1905.

Month.	Labourers ex S.S. "Inkum" arrived end November, 1904.	Labourers ex S.S. "Sikh" arrived middle May, 1905.
1904.		
December	19·01 inches.	—
1905.		
January	28·17 „	—
February	31·62 „	—
March	34·54 „	—
April	36·39 „	—

Month.	Labourers ex S.S. "Inkum" arrived end November, 1904.	Labourers ex S.S. "Sikh" arrived middle May, 1905.
1905.		
May	37·31 inches	15·74 inches.
June	37·75 „	26·81 „
July	34·39 „	26·95 „
August	32·68 „	27·90 „
September	39·11 „	35·72 „
October	42·98 „	41·32 „

which is a record of steady progress from December, 1904, to July, 1905, when a decrease is shown, which I attribute to dissatisfaction amongst the Chinese owing to neglect of duty on the part of the Chinese Controller.

The Chinese Controller was not instructed to thrash the coolies, neither was he instructed to deal with criminals, who are dealt with by the proper authorities.

Attached hereto is a letter of instructions received from the Rand Mines, Limited, dated 20th December, 1904, which speaks for itself.

The Chinese Controller's resignation was given on 29th May, 1905 (see copy of letter of that date), prior to the decrease referred to, and therefore had nothing to do with same.

(4.) The statements in the fifth and sixth paragraphs that certain forms of torture, which Mr. Boland describes, were adopted, and the details of these tortures which follow are, to the best of my knowledge and belief, false.

(5.) It is true that on or about the 7th August, 1905, there was trouble with the coolies, owing to the disrating of two boys in charge of gangs. This trouble led to a riot, and all the head boys and some coolies were arrested for refusing to work. They were brought before the authorities and fined, and, after paying their fines, the head boys apologised to me, and said that now that the new Controller was listening to and investigating their grievances, they would work well. Evidence of this shown in the statement of hand-drilling previously referred to.

H. Musson Thomas.

Sworn to before me this 15th day of November, 1905, at Cleveland.

Nourse Deep, Limited.

Dear Sir, Mine Office, May 29, 1905.

According with our agreement of the 14th February, 1905, I now beg to tender to you my two months' notice. It is my intention to return to China, and shall be glad if you will inform me when the next available emigrant ship leaves.

I beg to remain, &c.,
H. J. Pless.

F. Raleigh, Esquire,
Acting General Manager,
Rand Mines, Limited.

Copy of Registered letter, No. d.d. 20/12/04.

From the Secretary, Rand Mines, Limited, Johannesburg.

Subject: Treatment of Chinese Labourers.

Dear Sir,

Your attention has already been drawn by the General Manager to the necessity for instructing all employees to exercise every care in the treatment of Chinese labourers.

I am now instructed by the Board that the following notice is to be posted up in your office, and other convenient places in the mine, viz. :—

"Any white employee of the Company found ill-treating or in any way interfering with the Company's Chinese labourers, will be dismissed from the services of the Company."

It is also desirable to add to the notice, that any complaints against the conduct of the Chinese labourers must be lodged in such manner as you may direct.

Commending this to your immediate attention,

Yours faithfully,
H. A. READ,
Secretary.

The Manager,
Nourse Deep, Limited.

AFFIDAVIT.

I, ALEXANDER JAMES MCCARTHY, Hospital Attendant at the Nourse Deep, Limited, Chinese hospital, hereby make oath and say :—

(1.) I joined the service of the Nourse Deep, Limited, as hospital attendant, on 27th April, 1905, and have worked at the hospital since that date.

(2.) I have never admitted a coolie who was suffering from the effects of flogging.

(3.) I have never admitted a coolie who was suffering from the effects of torture, such as being strung up by the wrists.

(4.) On or about the 10th June, 1905, at which time I was boarding with Mr. H. J. Pless, the Company's Chinese Controller, at his house on the Nourse Deep, Limited; he took a photograph of a Chinese coolie in the following circumstances: I do not know whether the Coolie had committed any offence, but Pless, said, "I will make an example of this fellow, and I will photograph him tied up, for fun," or words to this effect. He then first gave the coolie a cold-water bath, followed by a hot-water bath. I objected to this from a medical point of view as liable to give the man pneumonia. He then tied the coolie, stripped naked, by his wrists to two large nails on the door in his dining-room, tied his pigtail up to his hands, and then tied his feet. Whilst he was tied up Pless brought food at meal hours and placed it on a chair in front of the coolie where it was impossible for him to get it. Pless kept the coolie tied up from 7 o'clock at night until 11.15 a.m. the following morning, and then released him and allowed him to return into the compound. The same coolie was admitted by me into the hospital, some three days afterwards, suffering from influenza, which I consider was brought on by the cold and hot baths.

I remonstrated with Pless on his action on this occasion, but did not report same to the Manager.

To the best of my knowledge and belief no one else saw the coolie tied up in Pless's dining-room.

Pless sent the photograph he took to some place in town, to be developed; I tried to find out where, but he evidently did not wish me to know.

(5.) Pless remarked to me on one occasion that the photographs he had taken would be useful to him on his return to China, and that he would make something out of them; further, that he intended writing a book—with the photographs for illustrations—on "Slave driving on the Rand."

A. J. MCCARTHY.

Sworn before me this 15th day of November, 1905, at Cleveland.

LANGMAN HANCOCK,
Justice of the Peace.

Enclosure 4 in No. 14.

Extract from "Transvaal Leader," September 15, 1905.

Lashes for a Chinaman.

A Chinaman was sentenced by Mr. Young in "B" Court yesterday to six months' imprisonment with hard labour and fifteen lashes for an indecent assault on a white woman.

No. 15.

TRANSVAAL CHAMBER OF MINES to COLONIAL OFFICE.

(Received December 15, 1905.)

202, 203, and 206, Salisbury House,
Finsbury Circus, London, E.C., December 14, 1905.

My Lord,

I have the honour to enclose a copy of a memorandum on the ratio of skilled white men to stamps on the gold mines of the Witwatersrand, which I have to-day sent to the press.

I have, &c.,
A. N. GOLDRING,
London Secretary.

Enclosure in No. 15.

Memorandum.

According to the statement made by Mr. Creswell at the political meeting held at Potchefstroom on the 4th October the white men employed on the producing mines of the Rand at the end of October, 1904, were in the ratio of 224 to every 100 stamps crushing, whereas in August, 1905, the ratio had decreased to 195 per 100 stamps. We have examined the returns issued by the Transvaal Government Mines Department, and find that on the producing mines of the Witwatersrand there were at the end of October, 1904, 4,920 stamps at work and 11,017 white men employed, whereas at the end of August, 1905, there were 6,845 stamps and 13,367 white men. Apparently these are the figures which Mr. Creswell has taken, as by dividing the number of stamps working into the number of men employed it will be found that for the former period the ratio works out to 224 white men per 100 stamps, and in the latter period to 195 white men per 100 stamps. We would, however, point out that to deal with the figures in that manner so as to endeavour to show that less white men are employed to-day per 100 stamps is misleading, and certainly proves nothing; while the results thus obtained in no way represent the position.

It will be seen from the above figures that the net increase of stamps between October, 1904, and August, 1905, was equal to 1,925; and on examination of the returns furnished by the Chamber of Mines, we find that the mines which were working in October, 1904, and also in August, 1905, had increased their stamping capacity

by no less than	1,140	stamps,
while new producers were responsible for	875	„
Total	2,015	„
We further find that owing to certain mines having suspended crushing operations, and others having hung up some of their stamps, we must deduct	105	„
Net increase	1,910	„

There is a difference of 15 between this figure and that given by the Government Mines Department, and as the latter merely publishes the total combined figures for the whole of the Witwatersrand District, without giving particulars of individual companies, it is impossible for us to say how this difference is made up. We will, however, place it to the benefit of the new producers, and therefore take it that while 1,140 stamps were added by companies previously producing, 890 were dropped by new producers. It is a well known fact, and Mr. Creswell as a mining engineer, who was also once manager of a mine where additional stamps were dropped from time to time, must have known when he made his speech, that in dropping additional stamps on a mine already crushing it does not in the least follow that the number of extra white men to be employed will be in the same ratio per 100 stamps as would apply in the case of a mine entering upon the producing stage for the first time; as in many such cases it is quite possible for a mine to run a certain number of extra stamps without employing additional white labour.

Let us take, for example, a mine running with 200 stamps, employing 448 white men, *i.e.*, 224 per 100 stamps (the highest ratio taken by Mr. Creswell), increasing its stamping power by 50 per cent. to 300 stamps. It certainly does not require that the number of white men shall be increased by 50 per cent.; therefore, by increasing the stamping power, the ratio of white men per 100 stamps must necessarily decrease.

As an example, we might mention the Nigel Deep. At present it is working with 20 stamps, and has 75 white men. Arrangements are being made to increase the mill by 10 stamps, or say 50 per cent. It is quite certain, however, that when the full 30 stamps are running the number of whites will not be increased by 50 per cent. or anything like it, though possibly a few extra men may be employed; hence the absurdity of Mr. Creswell's contention, for in the ratio of 224 white men to every 100 stamps are included the staff officials, such as general manager, mine manager, underground manager, compound manager, secretary, clerks, engineer, storekeeper, timekeeper, surveyors, assayers, &c., and when additional stamps are dropped on a mine already producing these officials, as we all know, are not duplicated.

It is very difficult to say exactly how many extra white men would be employed for every 100 additional stamps dropped by producing companies, but we will assume that on the average 50 extra white men per 100 stamps were given employment on the producing mines in respect of additional stamps; and in order to make the circumstances as favourable as possible for Mr. Creswell's contention, we will also assume that the 890 stamps dropped by *new* producers employed 224 white men for every 100 stamps. The position would therefore be as follows:—

	White Men.	White Men per 100 Stamps.
4,920 stamps working in October, 1904, employed	11,017	224
Less 105 stamps (see note below *)	201	224
4,815	10,816	224
Plus 890 stamps at 31st August, 1905, by new producers.	1,994	224
Plus 1,140 stamps, additional at 31st August, 1905, on producing mines at 50 per 100 stamps.	570	50
6,845	13,380	Average 195

* NOTE.—Of these 105 stamps
5 are in respect of a decrease from 60 to 55 stamps on the Treasury; while
10 are in respect of a decrease from 50 to 40 stamps on the Champ D'Or; also
30 are in respect of Geldenhuis Main Reef suspending operations; and
60 are in respect of New Goch suspending operations.
105

In view of the small decreases we take it that no reduction was made in the number of white men employed.

As regards these two mines, we have assumed that as they have dropped out of the list of producers they are included in the list of non-producers, also the employees on them; so that on the basis of 224 whites for every 100 stamps this would mean a decrease of 201 from the number of whites on producing mines.

It is, therefore, obvious that the decreased ratio of the number of whites employed to the number of stamps working at the end of August, 1905, as compared

with October, 1904, is due to producing companies increasing their stamping power; and the figures given by Mr. Creswell do not in any way prove that the introduction of Chinese labourers has brought about any reduction in the number of white employees, because the same situation would undoubtedly have been created had an adequate supply of native labour been available.

Village Main Reef.—Mr. Creswell's services as manager of this mine terminated about the beginning of November, 1903. The figures as regards stamps running and skilled whites employed from January, 1902, to October, 1903, inclusive, on that mine were as under :—

Month.	No. of Stamps Running.	No. of Skilled White Labourers Employed at end of Month.	No. of Skilled White Labourers per 100 Stamps.
January, 1902	30	126	420
February, „	50	150	300
March, „	60	156	260
April, „	60	150	250
May, „	65	166	255
June, „	70	176	251
July, „	75	187	249
August, „	75	202	269
September, „	75	187	249
October, „	60	143	238
November, „	60	153	255
December, „	70	162	231
January, 1903	85	195	229
February, „	90	207	230
March, „	100	206	206
April, „	100	202	202
May, „	100	212	212
June, „	105	217	207
July, „	120	223	186
August, „	120	249	207
September, „	120	280	233
October, „	130	282	217

During the period January, 1902, to September, 1902, the stamps increased from 30 to 75, and the number of skilled whites per 100 stamps decreased from 420 to 249, though the total number of skilled whites employed at the beginning of the period was 126, and at the end 187, an increase of 61. During the period October, 1902, to October, 1903, the stamps increased from 60 to 130, and the number of skilled whites per 100 stamps decreased from 238 to 217, though the total number of skilled whites employed at the beginning of the period was 238 and at the end 282, an increase of 44. Thus it will be seen that on the mine of which Mr. Creswell had the management, though the stamps increased, as also the total number of skilled whites employed, the ratio of skilled whites employed to every 100 stamps running gradually decreased. We have contended all along that the ratio would

decrease, and in the ordinary course of working that is bound to be the case, but Mr. Creswell, in spite of the facts in regard to the mine which was under his management, would have people believe otherwise. We are aware that from July, 1902, to October, 1904, a considerable number of unskilled whites were employed on the Village Main Reef, but these men were engaged in order to supplement the native labourers, or in other words the unskilled whites were employed to do work which would otherwise have been done by Kaffirs, had there not been a scarcity of native labourers. Consequently, it is but fair and reasonable to assume that the employment of these unskilled whites did not affect the number of skilled whites engaged, and therefore, for the purpose of this statement, we have not taken into consideration the number of unskilled whites working on the property during the period in question.

No. 16.

GOVERNOR THE EARL OF SELBORNE to MR. LYTTELTON.

(Received December 16, 1905.)

SIR, Governor's Office, Johannesburg, November 27, 1905.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 6th November, 1905,* I have the honour to forward, for your information, a comparative statement, for October, 1905, of mortality amongst natives employed on mines in labour districts.

I have, &c.,
SELBORNE,
Governor.

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* No. 45 in [Cd. 2786].

Enclosure in No. 16.

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF MORTALITY AMONGST NATIVES EMPLOYED ON MINES IN LABOUR DISTRICTS.

Month.	No. of Natives employed.		No. of Deaths from Disease.		Death Rate per 1,000 per Annum from Disease.		No. of Deaths from Accident.		Death Rate per 1,000 per Annum from Accident.		Total No. of Deaths.		Total Death Rate per 1,000 per Annum.	
	1904.	1905.	1904.	1905.	1904.	1905.	1904.	1905.	1904.	1905.	1904.	1905.	1904.	1905.
January	79,161	94,905	370	331	56·09	42·23	19	43	2·88	5·44	389	377	58·96	47·67
February	80,365	102,039	223	312	33·30	36·69	22	47	3·29	5·53	245	359	36·58	42·22
March	83,904	109,651	223	333	31·89	36·44	31	52	4·43	5·69	254	385	36·33	42·13
April	85,400	113,789	168	316	23·61	33·32	59	44	8·29	4·64	227	360	31·90	37·97
May	85,994	113,286	289	397	40·33	42·05	24	40	3·35	4·24	313	437	43·68	46·29
June	83,536	112,788	231	488	33·18	51·92	25	32	3·59	3·40	256	520	36·77	55·33
July	74,479	110,712	202	460	32·55	49·86	36	26	5·80	2·82	238	486	38·35	52·68
August	78,514	108,488	226	393	34·51	43·47	20	36	3·06	3·98	246	429	37·60	47·45
September	79,416	105,987	242	318	36·57	36·00	27	34	4·08	3·85	269	352	40·65	39·85
October	83,606	103,807	336	339	48·23	39·19	21	44	3·01	5·09	357	383	51·24	44·27
Average	81,437	107,515	251	369	36·99	41·17	28	40	4·13	4·46	279	409	41·11	45·64

No. 17.

GOVERNOR THE EARL OF SELBORNE to THE EARL OF ELGIN.

(Received 8.30 p.m., December 21, 1905.)

TELEGRAM.

[*Answered by No.* 27.]

December 21. No. 3. Referring to my telegram of 21st November, No. 2.* Total number of persons employed in gold mines of whole Transvaal on 30th November: White 18,125; coloured 96,283; Chinese 45,856.

No. 18.

GOVERNOR THE EARL OF SELBORNE to THE EARL OF ELGIN.

(Received 8.30 p.m., December 21, 1905.)

TELEGRAM.

December 21. No. 4. Referring to my telegram of 21st November, No. 1.† Official returns of white workmen in mines, Witwatersrand District, in the month of November show decrease of 188.

No. 19.

GOVERNOR THE EARL OF SELBORNE to MR. LYTTELTON.

(Received December 23, 1905.)

SIR, Governor's Office, Johannesburg, December 4, 1905.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 30th October,‡ I have the honour to enclose, for your information, a statement of convictions and sentences on Chinese labourers for the month of October, 1905.

I have, &c.,
SELBORNE,
Governor.

Enclosure in No. 19.

CONVICTION AND SENTENCES ON CHINESE LABOURERS, OCTOBER, 1905.

Number.	Sentences.	Fine paid or otherwise.
	CRIME—CONTRAVENTION SECTION 31, ORDINANCE NO. 17 OF 1904.	
44	5*s.* fine	Paid.
1	6*s.* fine	Paid.
32	10*s.* fine	Paid.
11	10*s.* or seven days	Sentence served.
3	£1 or seven days	Sentence served.
5	£2 or seven days	Sentence served.
2	£2 or 10 days	Sentence served.
4	£1 fine	Paid.
39	£1 or 14 days	Sentence served.
141	Carried forward.	

* No. 43 in [Cd. 2786]. † No. 42 in [Cd. 2786]. ‡ No. 40 in [Cd. 2786].

Number.	Sentences.	Fine paid or otherwise.
	CRIME—CONTRAVENTION SECTION 31, ORDINANCE NO. 17 OF 1904.—*cont.*	
141	Brought forward.	
6	£2 fine	Paid.
2	£2 or 14 days	Sentence served.
5	£3 or 14 days	Sentence served.
1	£5 or 14 days	Sentence served.
1	£3 or three weeks	Sentence served.
2	£5 or three weeks	Sentence served.
3	One month	Sentence served.
5	£1 or one month	Sentence served.
13	£2 or one month	Sentence served.
12	£3 or one month	Sentence served.
39	£4 or one month	Sentence served.
8	£5 or one month	Sentence served.
22	£10 or one month	Sentence served.
1	£3 or five weeks	Sentence served.
3	Six weeks	Sentence served.
2	£4 or six weeks	Sentence served.
5	£6 or six weeks	Sentence served.
10	£10 or six weeks	Sentence served.
30	£15 or six weeks	Sentence served.
3	£20 or six weeks	Sentence served.
24	£4 or two months	Paid.
338		
	CRIME—CONTRAVENTION SECTION 19, ORDINANCE 17 OF 1904 (ABSENT WITHOUT PERMIT).	
2	Two days' hard labour or 5*s*.	Fine paid.
11	10*s*. or seven days' hard labour	Sentence served.
1	10*s*. or three days' hard labour	Sentence served.
12	10*s*. or four days' hard labour	Sentence served.
18	£1 or seven days' hard labour	Sentence served.
19	£1 or 10 days' hard labour ...	Sentence served.
6	£5 or 14 days' hard labour ...	Sentence served.
1	£2 or 14 days' hard labour ...	Sentence served.
347	£10 or one month hard labour	Sentence served.
417		

Number.	Sentences.	Fine paid or otherwise.
	CRIME—ASSAULT WITH INTENT.	
1	Seven days	Sentence served.
1	Three weeks	Sentence served.
1	Six weeks	Sentence served.
1	Three months and 10 lashes ...	Sentence served.
8	Three months	Sentence served.
3	Four months	Sentence served.
1	Six months	Sentence served.
1	Six months and 10 lashes ...	Sentence served.
1	12 months	Sentence served.
1	12 months and 15 lashes ...	Sentence served.
19		
	CRIME—CONTRAVENTION SECTION 8, SUB-SECTION 15, ORDINANCE NO. 27 OF 1905 (POSSESSION OF OPIUM).	
2	1 week hard labour	Sentence served.
1	£2 or three weeks	Sentence served.
4	£1 or one month	Sentence served.
2	£3 or one month	Sentence served.
1	£4 or one month	Sentence served.
9	£5 or one month	Sentence served.
1	£6 or one month	Sentence served.
2	£2 or six weeks	Sentence served.
9	Six weeks	Sentence served.
3	£5 or six weeks	Sentence served.
1	£8 or six weeks	Sentence served.
1	£12 or six weeks	Sentence served.
1	Two months	Sentence served.
4	Three months	Sentence served.
41		
	CRIME—VIOLENCE.	
4	One month's hard labour ...	Sentence served.
22	Three months' hard labour ...	Sentence served.
6	Six months' hard labour ...	Sentence served.
32		
	CRIME—FORGERY.	
2	£2 or one month's hard labour	Sentence served.
1	Three months' hard labour ...	Sentence served.
3		

Number.	Sentences.	Fine paid or otherwise.
	CRIME—CONTRAVENTION SECTION 14, LAW OF 1880 (ATTEMPTING TO ESCAPE FROM PRISON).	
1	14 days' hard labour	Sentence served.
1	Two months and 15 lashes ...	Sentence served.
1	Three months' hard labour ...	Sentence served.
1	Six months and 15 lashes ...	Sentence served.
4		
	CRIME—CONTRAVENTION OF THE MINING REGULATIONS.	
1	14 days' hard labour	Sentence served.
1	One month's hard labour ...	Sentence served.
1	Six weeks' hard labour ...	Sentence served.
1	£5 or six weeks' hard labour	Sentence served.
4		
	CRIME—MURDER.	
1	Two years' hard labour.	
	CRIME—HOUSEBREAKING.	
6	Six months' hard labour and six lashes.	
4	Nine months' hard labour.	
2	Two years' hard labour and 15 lashes.	
12		
	CRIME—REFUSAL TO WORK.	
47	£3 or one month's hard labour	Sentence served.
	CRIME—ASSAULT.	
2	£1 or seven days' hard labour	Sentence served.
1	£2 or 14 days' hard labour ...	Sentence served.
1	£5 or one month's hard labour	Sentence served.
4	One month's hard labour ...	Sentence served.
5	Six weeks' hard labour ...	Sentence served.
2	£5 or six weeks' hard labour	Sentence served.
1	One month and 10 lashes ...	Sentence served.
2	Four months and 10 lashes ...	Sentence served.
18		
	CRIME—THEFT.	
1	One month's hard labour.	
1	Three months' hard labour.	
2	Six months' hard labour.	
4		

No. 20.

GOVERNOR THE EARL OF SELBORNE to MR. LYTTELTON.

(Received December 23, 1905.)

SIR, Governor's Office, Johannesburg, December 4, 1905.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 19th September,* I have the honour to enclose, for your information, a copy of a memorandum from the Superintendent, Foreign Labour Department, with enclosures, on the subject of the relations between Inspectors of Foreign Labour Department and the Mine Managers.

I have, &c.,
SELBORNE,
Governor.

Enclosure in No. 20.

SUPERINTENDENT, Foreign Labour Department, to PRIVATE SECRETARY TO HIGH COMMISSIONER.

Foreign Labour Department, Johannesburg, November 23, 1905.

The Private Secretary to
His Excellency the High Commissioner,
Johannesburg,

I have the honour to forward herewith, for the information of His Excellency the High Commissioner, a copy of a letter which I have addressed to all Mine Managers on the subject of the relations between these gentlemen and the Inspectors of the Foreign Labour Department in connection with the duties of the latter, as also a copy of a letter on the same subject which I have caused to be addressed to all Inspectors.

J. W. JAMIESON,
Superintendent.

SIR, Foreign Labour Department, Johannesburg, November 20, 1905.

I ENCLOSE, for your information, copy of a letter which I have addressed to all Mine Managers along the reef, and I look to you to work together with them in a sympathetic and friendly spirit. I cannot impress on you too strongly the necessity of exercising the greatest tact and forbearance, consistent with your duty and your dignity in dealing with these gentlemen.

It is only by cordial co-operation that one can hope to attain the desired end, namely, an effective supervision and control of the coolies on the Rand.

You are now fully acquainted with the mines allotted you, and I regret that, in some cases perhaps, the burden may prove a somewhat heavy one. I am, however, relaxing no efforts to obtain additional assistance, and I feel sure that I can rely on every one of the Inspectors putting his shoulder to the wheel and doing his utmost to tide over the period of initial difficulty.

You, on your part, may rest equally assured that you can always command from me loyal and consistent support.

The judicial functions, with which you have recently been entrusted, will, I know, constitute a serious tax on your time, but, I would wish you never to leave out of sight the fact that your primary duty is to *inspect*.

An Inspector should know his mines, as a Captain his ship, or a company leader his men. He must be in constant touch with all classes, and be conversant with everything that is going on. When the Government or outside parties address questions to me or ask for explanations, I must be in a position at once to furnish the fullest

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* No. 29 in [Cd. 2786].

and most accurate information, and for the requisite material I am, of necessity, entirely dependent on you. I must never, to use a colloquial phrase, get "caught out," nor must information reach me first hand through the Press, or the medium of these kindly people, who, as you are aware, are lying in wait to seize an opportunity of tripping us up.

It may interest you to know that arrangements are being made to tell off to each Inspector a Clerk of the Court and a mounted police constable.

I am, &c.,
J. W. JAMIESON,
Superintendent.

To.....

Foreign Labour Department,

MY DEAR SIR, P.O. Box No. 201, Jebbes., Johannesburg, November 20, 1905.

SHORTLY after my arrival here I was driven to the conclusion that existing methods for dealing with offences, on the part of indentured labourers, were, in many respects, far from satisfactory. I accordingly set to work to endeavour to place matters on a proper footing. The result is the Labour Importation Amendment Ordinance and its concomitant regulations, which I venture to think, constitute a step in advance, and which, when in full operation, ought greatly to facilitate the handling of the coolies.

As is the case with all new departures, however, it may take some little time before things will run with absolute smoothness, and I would ask you not to expect too much in the initial stages.

The main difficulty, with which I have had, and still have, to contend, is the engagement of an expert staff, and it is only now that it would seem that I have enough men to carry on with. But while enough, the number barely suffices to allow of my ideal conception being completely realised. That is that every mine on the reef shall be visited by an Inspector at least once in forty-eight hours. To enable this to be done I want 10 men, whereas, so far, I have only got seven, and, as you will readily understand, they will have but scant leisure.

I append a table, showing how they have been distributed, and you will therefrom note that your mine is within the district of

His address is:—

and his telephone number is .

Although I daresay by this time you have met each other, I would bespeak on behalf your loyal and friendly co-operation in the execution of his duties, and I would ask you to accept from me personally an assurance that the Department will do all that lies in its power to render you every assistance in the management of your Chinese coolies.

In this connection there are two points I would like to bring to your notice. They are, the provision of some room wherein cases can be tried, and of the lock-up called for under Section 5 of Ordinance No. 27 of 1905.

I think you will agree with me in holding that these must both be outside the compound, otherwise the danger of their being "rushed" is too obvious to require comment.

When I have put the new system into full working order, I propose to do myself the honour of paying your mine a personal visit, a duty, which I fear I have left too long neglected.

Believe me, &c.,

Superintendent.

Name.	Address.	Telephone Number.	District.	Mines in District.
Richard Purdon, Esq.	Price's Hotel, Krugersdorp.	3, Krugersdorp Police.	Krugersdorp	1. The North Randfontein Gold Mining Company, Limited. 2. The French Rand Gold Mining Company, Limited. 3. The Tudor Gold Mining Company, Limited. 4. The Lancaster Gold Mining Company, Limited. 5. The West Rand Mines, Limited.
Captain H. W. Cruddas.	The Retreat Hotel, Florida.	676, Florida.	Florida ...	1. Roodepoort Gold Mining Company, Limited. 2. Princess Estate and Gold Mining Company, Limited. 3. Durban Roodepoort Deep, Limited. 4. Aurora West United Gold Mining Company, Limited. 5. Consolidated Langlaagte Mines, Limited.
Captain R. R. Gibson.	Post Restante, Denver. (Temporary.)	—	Central ...	1. Simmer and Jack Proprietary Mines, Limited. 2. Geldenhuis Deep, Limited. 3. Jumpers Deep, Limited. 4. Jupiter Gold Mining Company, Limited. 5. Nourse Deep, Limited. 6. South Nourse Gold Mining Company, Limited. 7. Village Deep, Limited. 8. Henry Nourse Gold Mining Company, Limited. 9. New Heriot Gold Mining Company, Limited.
E. C. Mayers, Esq.	Phœnix Hotel, Benoni.	1189, by courtesy of the Van Ryn Estate Gold Mining Company.	Benoni ...	1. Kleinfontein Central Administration. 2. Modderfontein Extension, Limited. 3. Van Ryn Gold Mines Estate, Limited. 4. New Kleinfontein Company, Limited. 5. New Modderfontein Gold Mining Company, Limited. 6. Benoni Gold Mine, Limited. 7. Kleinfontein Deep, Limited. 8. Geduld Proprietary Mines, Limited. 9. Rand Klipfontein Gold Mining Company, Limited.
J. S. Walsham, Esq.	Germiston, Hotel, Germiston.	51, Germiston,	Germiston ...	1. New Rietfontein Estates Gold Mining Company, Limited. 2. Witwatersrand Gold Mining Company, Limited. 3. Glen Deep, Limited. 4. Rose Deep, Limited. 5. Simmer and Jack East, Limited.

Name.	Address.	Telephone Number.	District.	Mines in District.
M. E. Wilkinson, Esq.	Grand Hotel, Boksburg.	50, Boksburg.	Boksburg.	1. Witwatersrand Deep, Limited. 2. Angelo Gold Mining Company, Limited. 3. New Comet Gold Mining Company, Limited. 4. Van Dyk Proprietary Mines, Limited. 5. Cason Gold Mining Company, Limited. 6. Rand Collieries, Limited.

No. 21.

THE EARL OF ELGIN to GOVERNOR THE EARL OF SELBORNE.

(Sent 7.50 p.m., December 23, 1905.)

TELEGRAM.

[*See Nos.* 26 *and* 31.]

December 23. No. 1. Your despatch, 20th November.* I shall be glad to know when reply from Witwatersrand Deep Mine may be expected. Have you yet obtained any information on which you can prosecute?

No. 22.

THE EARL OF ELGIN to GOVERNOR THE EARL OF SELBORNE.

(Sent 7.5 p.m., December 28, 1905.)

TELEGRAM.

[*Answered by No.* 53.]

December 28. No. 2.

I am glad to learn from your telegram, No. 1, 30th October,† that no difficulty is anticipated as to application of new penalties to coolies already under contract. But you will no doubt take steps to ensure approval of Chinese Consul-General in order to avoid possibility of disputes with Chinese Government.

As regards future contracts I accept alteration proposed by Attorney-General but it should be made in main clause of contract (see page 9, Cd. 2183) and in Clause 4 "Ordinances" should be substituted for "Ordinance." Schedule may be amended as proposed. Copies of amended contract should be sent home as soon as possible for information of Chinese Government. Any Ordinance amending the existing Ordinances must not be assented to, but must either contain a suspending clause or be reserved in accordance with Royal instructions.

I desire to repeat my predecessor's injunction in his telegram, No. 4, of 23rd October,‡ that great caution is required in administration of penalty clauses of Ordinance whether in case of coolies under old or under new contracts.

Please send me detailed account by despatch of the working of the Ordinance to reach here by beginning of February so that it can be presented to Parliament, if necessary, and report specially to what extent action has been taken since 1st October

* No. 14. † Not printed. ‡ No. 35 in [Cd. 2786].

under clause sanctioning deduction of fines from wages and under provisions for fines on boss boys and for collective fine. I should be glad to learn that it will be possible to dispense with these exceptional powers either wholly or to a large extent in the near future.

No. 23.

GOVERNOR THE EARL OF SELBORNE to THE EARL OF ELGIN.

(Received 4.15 p.m., December 29, 1905.)

TELEGRAM.

December 29. No. 5. Your telegram 4th December, No. 2.* Regret to inform you that death rate among native labourers from tropical areas employed on mines remains very high, amounting to 118·9 per 1,000 per annum for first 10 months of 1905 as against death rate of 41·2 per 1,000 per annum among natives from all sources of supply employed on mines. Of course, if tropical natives are excluded death rate of remainder falls much below 40 per mille; see enclosure in my despatch of 18th September.† Recruiting ceases 31st January, and will not be resumed unless mortality returns for year ending 30th June, 1906, show marked improvement.

No. 24.

THE EARL OF ELGIN to GOVERNOR THE EARL OF SELBORNE.

MY LORD, Downing Street, December 29, 1905.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatches of the 23rd and 30th of October‡ respectively, transmitting copies of a resolution passed at a public meeting held at Potchefstroom on the 4th of October, and of a letter dated 24th October communicating resolution passed at a meeting of the Transvaal Political Labour League on the subject of the employment of Chinese Labour in the Transvaal mines.

I have, &c.,
ELGIN.

No. 25.

HIGH COMMISSIONER THE EARL OF SELBORNE to THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES.

(Received December 30, 1905.)

SIR, High Commissioner's Office, Johannesburg, December 11, 1905.

I have the honour to enclose, for your information, a return of mortality on the South African mines for the period July 1st to September 30th, 1905.

I have, &c.,
SELBORNE,
High Commissioner.

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* No. 11. † Not printed, but see p. 134. ‡ Nos. 6 and 7.

Enclosure in No. 25.

Mortality Return of Mines for the Period Quarter ending September 30th, 1905.

	Cape Colony.				Natal.				Orange River Colony.				Transvaal.				Southern Rhodesia.			
	White.	Yellow.	Black.	Total.	White.	Yellow.	Black.	Total.	White.	Yellow.	Black.	Total.	White.	Yellow.	Black.	Total.	White.	Yellow.	Black.	Total.
Number of deaths from accidents, including homicide and suicide.	3	—	13	16	Nil.	—	6	6	1	—	8	9	31	78	94	203	3	—	22	25
Rate per 1,000 per annum ...	3·73	—	2·35	2·52	—	—	3·971	3·780	5·68	—	4·80	4·92	6·607	7·080	3·260	4·557	28·7	—	5·17	5·74
Number of deaths from diseases, &c.	6	—	144	150	Nil.	—	33	33	1	—	35	36	80	113	1,222	1,415	1	—	182	183
Rate per 1,000 per annum ...	7·47	—	26·01	23·66	—	—	21·843	20·794	5·68	—	21·12	19·64	17·050	10·256	42·384	31·769	9·5	—	42·83	42·03
Total number of deaths from all causes.	9	—	157	166	—	—	39	39	2	—	43	45	111	191	1,316	1,618	4	—	204	208
Rate per 1,000 per annum ...	11·20	—	28·36	26·18	—	—	25·814	24·574	11·36	—	25·92	24·56	23·657	17·336	45·644	36·326	38·2	—	48·96	47·77
Average number of employees ...	3,214	—	22,143	25,362	305	—	6,043	6,348	701	—	6,621	7,322	18,768	44,068	115,327	178,163	418	—	16,997	17,415

No. 26.

THE EARL OF ELGIN to GOVERNOR THE EARL OF SELBORNE.

(Sent 4.40 p.m., January 2, 1906.)

TELEGRAM.

[*Answered by No. 33.*]

January 2. No. 2. See my telegram of 23rd December, No. 1.* What I wish to know is whether sufficient legal evidence is available in any specific case, and whether any prosecution has been or is about to be instituted.

No. 27.

THE EARL OF ELGIN to GOVERNOR THE EARL OF SELBORNE.

[*See No. 51.*]

MY LORD, Downing Street, January 5, 1906.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your telegram, No. 3, of the 21st of December,† reporting the number of persons employed on the gold mines of the whole Transvaal on the 30th of November, 1905.

2. I observe that there is a decrease of 234 in the number of white labourers employed since the 31st of October, and I should be glad to receive an explanation of this fact.

3. I should also be glad to receive a report showing whether, in the case of Chinese coolies who have served, say, six months on the mines, more or less supervision by white labourers is required than in the case of coloured labourers.

I have, &c.
ELGIN.

No. 28.

THE EARL OF ELGIN to GOVERNOR THE EARL OF SELBORNE.

(Sent 1 a.m., January 6, 1906.)

TELEGRAM.

[*Answered by Nos. 44 and 67.*]

January 5. No. 4. Referring to the statement in your despatch of the 18th September,‡ that some Chinese coolies did not understand what mining labour entailed, and are undoubtedly disappointed, and will not be likely to re-engage, and having regard to the importance of affording no ground for the allegation that the Chinese are detained in the Transvaal against their will solely because they have not the money necessary to secure repatriation under Clause 14 of the Contracts, I shall be glad if you will consider whether there could not be framed a regulation on the lines of Clause 7 of the Amending Ordinance of 1905, providing that on being satisfied by the Superintendent of Foreign Labour that a coolie who had applied for repatriation did not possess the necessary funds the Lieutenant-Governor might call on the importers to repatriate him, the Government making up the amount which the coolie could not provide. Please inform me how such a regulation would be received, and to what extent it is likely to be taken advantage of, and consider how funds to give effect to it can be provided.

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* No. 21. † No. 17. ‡ No. 25 in [Cd. 2786].

No. 29.

GOVERNOR THE EARL OF SELBORNE TO THE EARL OF ELGIN.

(Received January 6, 1906.)

[*Answered by No.* 36.]

MY LORD, The Governor's Office, Johannesburg, December 18, 1905.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you the accompanying copies of correspondence, with regard to certain charges, made by Mr. Eugenio Bianchini, of improper treatment of Chinese coolies employed by the Witwatersrand Gold Mining Company, Limited.

I have, &c.,
SELBORNE,
Governor.

Enclosure 1 in No. 29.

SIR SOMERS VINE TO GOVERNOR.

DEAR LORD SELBORNE, P.O. Box 6242, Johannesburg, October 28, 1905.

A FEW days after the meeting at Potchefstroom, on October 4th, when Mr. F. H. P. Creswell gave an address on the Chinese question, two or three gentlemen brought, and introduced to me, a Mr. Eugenio Bianchini, late Compound (Chinese) Manager to the Witwatersrand Gold Mining Company, and author of the Condensed English-Mandarin Dictionary, published by the Central News Agency of this town.

Mr. Bianchini communicated a great number of verbal details connected with the treatment of Chinese coolies, as they had come under his personal observation, and it was suggested that these should be made publicly known at home.

I pointed out to Mr. Bianchini and his friends, that, in my opinion, serious allegations such as those made by him (*vide* folios 3, 4, 6, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, 16, and 17) ought, in the first instance, to be brought under Your Lordship's direct notice, and that I did not think it was quite the proper thing to further excite public opinion in the United Kingdom or elsewhere until Your Lordship had been provided with an opportunity of knowing and testing the character of the statements.

Mr. Bianchini said that he had been told by some of his friends that the adoption of such a course would probably entail—he not being a naturalised British subject—indulgence in attempts and devices, by certain parties, to secure his expulsion from the Colony.

I assured Mr. Bianchini that, if his statements were true, he could safely commit them to writing, and—I felt certain—rely on Your Lordship's protection against any injustice such as he feared. I also informed him that if he thought fit to commit his statements to paper, and sign them, I would forward the document to Your Lordship for such action thereon as you might think desirable.

Mr. Bianchini eventually said he was quite willing to follow this advice. Later on he handed me the enclosed type-written statement (he signed it in my presence), and I now transmit it to Your Lordship. Mr. Bianchini added that he was quite prepared to hold himself to Your Lordship's disposal in the matter.

I am, &c.,
J. SOMERS VINE.

TREATMENT.

In my last report of October, 1904, in connection with the treatment of the Chinese at the mine, which I sent to the Town Office, I stated as follows:—

A Chinaman who has never immigrated before brings with him methods of living and working peculiar to his race. This raw Chinaman has to be transformed

to make him useful. Fine compounds and experienced men in charge will not alone be able to bring about such transformation. It seems to me that it is on the patience, good-will, and skill of the white miners, who are brought daily into contact with the Chinese, that the transformation from raw workmen into efficient ones depends. I am of opinion that this important transformation will not be successfully attained unless all the miners concur in giving their whole influence to the gradual transformation of John Chinaman.

It happens, unfortunately, that some of them appear to me as being prejudiced against the Chinese, and to desire the failure of the latter, and that they will not, therefore, lend their co-operation towards the object to be attained.

It is doubtful whether a Chinaman will be satisfied with the treatment received from some of his bosses if every word and act of the latter is accompanied by marks of contempt for the Celestials.

Orders are naturally communicated to the Chinese in English, and most of the bosses take for granted that their orders are understood. Should a Chinaman dare to convey to his boss, by gestures, that he is not clear as to any order, some of the bosses will at once turn on him with a long list of vulgar insults. The Chinese understand immediately that the cursing is addressed to them, and begin to curse the white man back. No wonder if the prestige of the white man is lost. Still he dares to complain if at times the Chinaman refuses to obey him.

It happens sometimes that a Chinaman is not physically strong enough to perform satisfactorily the work given to him, but simply because the Chinaman was, irrespective of his ability, allotted to a certain boss, he has to remain with him; and without consideration to his physique he has at times to perform a job which may be perhaps beyond his natural power to do.

Amongst the bosses superintending the Chinese, there are some of unenviable character and bad temper. These kind of men are, however, supposed to get along well with the Chinese. John Chinaman will soon find out the character of the person under whose supervision he has to work, and in many cases he will refuse to go with such men.

Complaints in such cases are occasionally ignored, especially when the white man concerned happens to be on friendly terms with " some one in authority."

It is now almost a year since I made out the above statement, and I have now to admit, that as far as my knowledge goes, things in general, as stated above, have not improved since.

I feel convinced, and this conviction is backed by twelve months' experience in a Chinese compound, that the tactless handling and bad treatment which the Chinese receive from most of the white miners are mainly responsible now, as it happened to be a year ago, for the dissatisfaction existing amongst the coolies. Cases of desertions of coolies from compounds, and isolated cases where the Chinese react against their white overseers, are also due to abuses and ill-treatment. If some of the coolies stand patiently abuses and undesirable treatment, it is because they look forward to their Compound Manager for redress, but I regret to say that this desired redress, this natural satisfaction due to any free human being, irrespective of his race or colour, was in most cases never granted by the General Manager.

There are also cases which unfortunately reflect upon the carelessness of some of the miners, as regards the safety of the Chinese underground. There are other cases when unscrupulous miners borrow watches and money from the Chinese under their supervision, and never return the same.

To this special statement I refer all the complaints from abused, ill-treated, and knocked-about coolies which at surprisingly frequent intervals I have been sending on to the General Manager.

Unfortunately, however, as far as my recollection goes, I can trace no instance where I was informed that something had been done to stop the repetition of similar abuses, although I was given on various occasions ample assurances that just complaints on the part of the coolies would receive immediate attention.

In connection with the management lending a benevolent ear to crippled coolies towards making their miserable existence less unpleasant, I may mention the case where a young and healthy Chinaman lost, through an accident, his right leg last February. This unfortunate coolie was still at the hospital the day of my departure from the mine, as he was incapacitated to walk, not owing to the wound not being healed, but to the lack of an artificial limb. Besides, the £5 due to him for permanent partial disablement had not up to September 23rd yet been paid to him, although this case has been the object of many requests being sent by me to the General Office, the last one being dated August 30th.

Wages and Rise of Wages.

The coolies arrived at the Witwatersrand mine approximately on the following dates:—

601 coolies September 27th and 28th, 1904.
450 coolies November 24th, 1904.
1,261 coolies November 29th, 30th, and December 1st, 1904.
746 coolies January 2nd and 3rd, 1905.

A schedule of coolie wages was drawn up by the mine officials in October, 1904, and the coolies were paid according to the rates of wages stated therein.

Rates of wages for coolies doing ordinary work were as follows: 1s., 1s. 2d., 1s. 3d., 1s. 4d. and 1s. 6d per diem; the latter rate was paid to fire-boys and boss-boys only.

The compound staff included police-boys and headmen, rated at 2s. per day, and cooks, at 1s. 9d.

The Labour Importation Ordinance, 1904, Form 1., Contract of Service, Section 6. reads as follows:—

> "If, however, within six months from the date of said labourer's arrival in the Witwatersrand district the average pay of the labourers employed by the said C.D. under the said Ordinance does not equal 50 shillings for thirty working days the rate shall be increased from one shilling to one shilling and sixpence for each working day of 10 hours."

According to above Contract of Service the wages of the first batch of 601 coolies on day pay, who arrived at the mine at the end of September last year, should have been *raised in April*, 1905. The wages of the second and third batches of 1,711 coolies on day pay, who arrived approximately during the last week in November, 1904, should have been *increased in June*, 1905. And, finally, the wages of the last batch of 746 coolies on day pay, who arrived at the mine January 2nd and 3rd, ought to have been *raised in July*, 1905.

But no rise in wages was made on any of the above dates, and the average pay of the labourers was far below 1s. 8d. at the end of June, 1905.

The first batch of coolies whose wages were due to be raised, during April, advanced reiterated complaints to the effect that the mine was not paying to them the rate of wages as per term of contract.

I wrote to this effect to the Mine Secretary on May 26th, 1905. I received an answer from him the same day, stating that with reference "to the increase of wages he (the Secretary) had arranged with the General Manager to go into the matter at once."

Unfortunately, however, this matter, as far as my knowledge goes, was never taken into consideration.

Piece-work was, some time last April, arranged, at a mutually agreed rate, between the mine and about 100 tailing boys (discharging and transferring). No rise of wages was, on the strength of this arrangement, consequently due to those coolies.

The rock drill coolies (amounting to about 420) who were paid at the rate of 1s. 4d. per diem were promised a rise in their wages to 1s. 8d. at the end of May. As far as I can remember a very few rock-drill coolies only received the promised

increase at the end of June. This fact, of course, created a great dissatisfaction amongst them.

During the period from the end of May to the end of August about 300 rock-drill coolies, out of, say, 420, were increased to 1s. 8d. per diem. There remained still about 120 rock-drill coolies to be raised, and to this effect I wrote to the Acting Secretary on September 13th, 1905, giving a list with numbers of above coolies. But up to September 23rd, the date of my leaving the compound, I received no answer.

The drill-carrier wages remained stationary at 1s. per diem.

The fire-boys (about 36 coolies in all) were also increased from 1s. 6d. to 1s. 9d. per diem last July.

The above practically covers all the increases made in the coolie wages during my twelve months' stay at the Witwatersrand Mine Compound.

If from the coolie complement, which is at present, roughly speaking, 3,000 men, we deduct, say, 100 coolies employed on piece-work, and about 336 who received an increase, the remaining lot represents the number of coolies whose wages are still wrongly rated according to the old schedule of October, 1904.

Reiterated complaints regarding the rise of wages as per term of contract having been made to me again by the coolies, I reported the whole affair to the General Manager with my letter dated September 4th, 1905, who, in his reply of even date, while admitting of the coolie wages being below the standard required by the Ordinance, he thought that the month of September would put matters right.

On the occasion of Major the Honourable W. L. Bagot, General Manager of the Chamber of Mines Labour Importation Agency, visiting the compound, together with the General Manager of the mine, on September 10th 1905, the coolies complained to the former about the wages not being raised as per contract, and the General Manager, in the presence of above Major Bagot, made a formal promise to the Chinese headmen and coolies (which I translated to them) that an increase of wages should be given to those coolies working for day pay by the end of September. The neglect on the part of the management to make good just complaints advanced by the coolies, through me, *vice versa* the open dissatisfaction evinced to me on several occasions by the management in connection with the coolies not doing sufficient work, made my position as Compound Manager most undesirable and untenable, and it was owing to this and other reasons that I felt compelled to give my resignation on September 6th.

Coolies wages for drilling were rated at first, at ½d. per inch drilled, but it was resolved by the management afterwards that coolies drilling under 24 inches in a day should *not* be paid. In order to encourage coolies to drill a fair average every day a system of bonus was introduced whereby coolies drilling from 36 inches to 47 inches daily received, besides their ordinary pay at ½d. per inch, 3d. bonus.

48 inches to 59 inches, 5d. bonus.
60 inches to 71 inches, 7d. bonus.
72 inches and over, 9d. bonus.

This system of bonus, however good it may prove to boys doing hand-stoping, it is, owing to the way in which it is applied, totally detrimental to the remainder of the coolies who are not employed on piece-work.

The reason is this. The Labour Importation Ordinance, 1904, Form 1., Contract of Service, in dealing with the average pay of labourers employed, specifies that if this average does not equal fifty shillings for thirty working days the rate of wages shall be increased to one shilling and sixpence for each working day of ten hours.

Supposing, now, that the tailing boys, who slave themselves every day (most Sundays included), and a fair amount of hand stopers doing piece-work, succeed through hard work in earning a higher wage than 1s. 8d. per diem, the difference existing between this higher wage earned by each single coolie and the average pay of 1s. 8d. will go, if the average pay of the labourers is reckoned by adding together the amount of the day-pay coolie wages with the amount of piece-work coolie wages, to the total detriment of the coolies not employed on piece-work—in fact, if a coolie drills, say, an average of 60 inches per day, his ordinary daily pay will

amount to 2s. 6d., plus 7d. bonus, making a total of 3s. 1d. per diem. The difference of 1s. 5d. resulting from the earned wage of 3s. 1d. and 1s. 8d., average specified by the Ordinance, will go to theoretically increase the wages of those boys who receive 1s., 1s. 2d., 1s. 3d., and 1s. 4d. per diem without any material advantage being felt by them, who, owing to the nature of their work cannot do piece-work. It would only be just and fair to the labourers in figuring this average pay, that the total amount of the wages for coolies doing piece-work should not be reckoned, and that the total amount of the wages earned by day-pay coolies only, should be reckoned in figuring the standard average required by the Ordinance.

Drilling.

Coolies drilling less than 24 inches in a day do not receive any ticket, and are consequently entitled to no pay for that day.

A point which has originated no end of complaints on the part of the coolies drilling *dry holes* has, as far as my knowledge goes, received no attention by the management.

A coolie who is drilling "a dry hole" is supposed to do in a day the same average as if drilling a "wet one," in fact, the very same principle which is applied to a coolie not drilling 24 inches of "wet hole" in a day does not receive his ticket, refers exactly to a coolie drilling a "dry hole."

This particular point was the object of explanations being asked by me at the General Office. The Mine Secretary in his communication to me, dated May 29th, stated that the General Manager wished him to inform me that with reference to "dry holes" he had arranged with the Mine Captain, where a coolie was working on a dry hole one day, he was to be put on a wet one next day. The above curt communication, and the unfair arrangement made to the detriment of the coolies was quite palpable. That meant that either the coolie had to work the whole day for nothing, because he could not in most cases drill 24 inches of dry hole, or resort, in order to be able to get his daily ticket to desertion from his daily work, and to offer his services to someone else.

The General Manager's idea regarding the efficiency of the Chinese was that the progress made by the coolies in drilling was, unfortunately, far from satisfactory, and that the coolies did not understand the meaning of the bonus offered to them for their drilling.

A letter received from the General Manager, dated September 4th, was pointing out the fact that it was through the fecund imagination and action of the Compound Manager of another mine, if the drilling average of the coolies reached over 40 inches in that special mine. The device consisted, the letter said, in large blocks of stone being conveyed to the interior of the compound, and every boy whose daily ticket showed less than 36 inches for the shift, was compelled to drill the deficiency in the compound before his ticket would be marked at the time office. This deficiency was naturally not to be paid for. The General Manager believed this to be a splendid idea, and suggested that he should be glad if I tried the experiment, as he thought that it was to produce a lot of good.

I need not say that the General Manager's suggestion did not meet my views, and that I did not for a moment think of carrying out his instructions.

Allotments.

The allotment system is, if I am allowed to give my candid opinion about it, a scheme which does not give credit either to the person who suggested it or even to the person who approved of it. I am under the impression that the refusal to allow allotment books being issued, would not have jeopardized the work of recruiting in North China. Peculiar circumstances and special reasons recommending the allotment system to be sanctioned, may have arisen from the fact that the various Chinese contractors or coolie brokers saw, in the proposed allotment scheme, a good source of another "outside profit." Their stating that if not sanctioned the recruiting work would most likely be jeopardized, tends to fully demonstrate

the scarce knowledge about China and the Chinese professed by the person at first in charge of such recruiting (I wrote, on August, 1904, a report on "My experience in recruiting in Manchuria," of which a copy is attached to the present).

In connection with this I may, however, point out, that during the construction of the Chinese Eastern Railway by the Russians through Manchuria, extensive recruiting was made in the provinces of Chile and Shantung by the Russian agents residing at Tientsin and Chiefeo, and although part of the indentured coolies had left their families behind, as it was the case with the Chinese labourers on the Rand, no allotment system nor any other system whereby the agents were to pay monthly instalments to the families of the recruited men were ever enforced.

It is not difficult to see when one realizes that in many cases the coolies did not understand the purpose of these allotment books, that the amount withdrawn every month from the labourers' wages, and paid to the allottee in China, constitutes in most cases, either a partial or a total squeeze made by coolie contractors or coolie brokers to their own and sole benefit.

To justify what I stated above, I may mention that many coolies of the Witwatersrand Gold Mining Company requested me, on different times, that I should take steps to have their allotments discontinued. In fact, it was with my letter, dated March 21st, that I informed the Mine Secretary that eleven coolies wished to have their allotments stopped, because in most cases their parents in China never benefit with the money paid over every month to the holders of the allotment books.

Another batch of eighteen coolies advanced an identical complaint a few days afterwards, and it was on March 30th that I wrote again to the Mine Secretary, asking him to inform the Chamber of Mines about it. I remember that in connection with this the Chamber of Mines made a suggestion to the effect that the coolies concerned should instruct their allottees to surrender the allotment books to the Chamber of Mines General Manager in China.

This suggestion was, however, useless, as most of the Chinese referred to above did not even know who the allottees were, and where they lived.

I forwarded to the Mine Secretary complaints as above from five other coolies on July 14th, with the same request. But up to the date of my leaving the compound, September 23rd, allotments of above complainants were not discontinued, and the usual amount of 10s. has been withdrawn from the coolie wages every month, much against their will.

Daily Tickets.

Cases where coolies do not receive tickets for 2, 3, 4, and 5 shifts are, at the Witwatersrand Gold Mining Company, unfortunately, so numerous that it is impossible for me to enumerate them all. These arrear tickets which the coolies so often partially or totally lose, because of the bosses being shifted to another place to work, or owing to their being discharged from the mine, are so frequent as to make this unjust neglect responsible for the coolies disobeying orders, and at times refusing to work. It often occurs that coolies are sent back to compounds with notes from their bosses stating that there is no work at present for so many boys. In this case also coolies are to lose their shifts, whereas, according to law, they are entitled to their wages. Complaints from coolies whose bosses refuse to sign their monthly tickets, and specify the nature of work which the coolie is doing, are also very frequent at the end of every month. This fact facilitates the wrong rating, on the part of the time office, of the coolies' wages when tickets are written up. As far as my recollection goes I may say, that during my twelve months' stay at the Witwatersrand compound no system of any kind was ever introduced whereby to stop the repetition of similar cases.

Time Office.

Since the monthly pay system has been introduced in the mine, monthly tickets are handed by the coolies in the time office at the end of each month to be written up. It has unfortunately frequently occurred, however, that some of these monthly

tickets, already written up and marked for payment, have been returned by the time office to the wrong coolies, and the wrong coolies have been, consequently, paid. This fact has caused no end of just complaints on the part of coolies whose wages have been erroneously paid to others.

With reference to above facts I wrote to the Acting Secretary of the Mine, pointing out such mistakes, on July 24th and August 15th, 1905. The reply to above letters, which I received on August 17th, stated that the whole thing had been submitted to the General Manager, and that he had (the manager) authorized him to say that if such was the case it was unfortunate, and that nothing could now be done in the matter. In connection with similar mistakes being made, I wrote to the Acting Secretary again on August 29th. A reply was sent on to me on August 30th, but unfortunately nothing was ever done towards paying to the coolies the wages due to them. Such neglect on the part of the management placed me, to my regret, in the unpleasant alternative to inform the coolies, who had suffered through these mistakes, and whom I had led to believe that the General Manager would straighten matters up satisfactorily, that the management declined to rectify these mistakes by a refund of those wages which had been erroneously paid to other coolies.

With reference to complaints from coolies whose wages have been paid short, I may say that I have sent quite a number of notes, either to the party paying the coolies or to the Acting Secretary. The last letters addressed to the latter in connection with this matter were dated September 11th and 14th, but I was never in a single instance favoured with a reply stating that an investigation was going to be made.

I do not think it would be amiss to illustrate how mistakes are being made of coolies being handed short cash.

The party paying the coolies at the general office counter happens to hand to a certain coolie, say, 2s., 3s., or 6s. short. The coolie takes the money handed to him and goes out, but when, on counting it over, he finds that he has been paid short, he complains at once to the Chinese interpreter, who, in his turn, conveys the message to the Paying Clerk. The latter in most cases says that he has no time to look into the matter at that moment, and as this clerk does not unfortunately speak Chinese, he instructs the interpreter to tell the coolie to go and see the Compound Manager, which the coolie does. On my sending these complaints on to above parties and asking for explanations, either I did not receive any reply, as was generally the case, or if they gave me a verbal one it was, that the coolie had pocketed the money which he claimed had been paid short. The above statement is fully backed by my correspondence to the various departments of the mine, copy of which will be found in my manifold books, numbered from 1 to 14 (and part of 15), which I handed to the General Manager September 23rd, 1905.

Enquiry and its consequences.

I reported it myself to the Superintendent of the Chinese Foreign Labour Department, in the first part of September, how things were going on at the mine, and an enquiry was promised to be made.

In the meantime, the Chamber of Mines Labour Importation Agency sent their Chinese adviser (Mr. Child) to the compound to find out which were the grievances of which the coolies complained. Mr. Child himself conducted a private investigation by questioning headmen, policemen and boys on September 13th and 14th, while the Foreign Labour Department made its enquiry on September 21st. The gentlemen present at the enquiry were the Secretary and an Inspector of the Foreign Labour Department, Mr. Child, of the Chamber of Mines, Mr. Johns, the Consulting Engineer, and Mr. Prout, the General Manager.

Every coolie who had to give evidence was compelled to kneel down when questioned. I am of opinion that an investigation conducted in such a way was to have the inevitable result of frightening the coolies only. I believe that the presence of the management of the mine at the enquiry, against whom the coolies advanced their complaints, to be superfluous and unfair to the Chinese who had

to be questioned. If the Consulting Engineer and Manager were made to have the privilege of being present at the enquiry, I, in my position of Compound Manager, had to enjoy the same privilege. A proof that the coolies were frightened may be had by comparing the result of the enquiry which was made officially by the Foreign Labour Department and privately and most efficiently by the Chamber of Mines.

Anyone conversant with the character and habits of the Celestials will easily see the efficiency of a deterrent such as to make the Chinese kneel down. I am under the impression that if the investigation made by the Foreign Labour Department had been conducted in a quiet and private way, the result would most likely have been a different one, and the coolies who gave the right evidence on September 14th would most likely have given the same version of the story on September 21st.

Chinese are like children whom one can make talk by using friendly ways, and, like children, they can be easily led either for good or bad purposes.

Of course, not knowing the result in its details of the investigation made by the Foreign Labour Department I am unable to go thoroughly into it. But judging, however, from the letter written to me by the General Manager, dated September 21st (the day of the enquiry) and received at about 9.30 p.m., stating that five of the mine coolies had been sent to the Langlaagte mine, under escort, I am led to believe that the evidence given by some of the coolies was altogether different from the evidence which the very same coolies gave unofficially during the investigation made by Mr. Child, of the Chamber of Mines.

I may say, in connection with cases where eventually the evidence of coolies should have been required, that the General Manager refused, in many instances, to take their evidence, especially, say, in cases where *coolies claimed to be paid short*, in cases where coolies were abused, in cases of assault, in cases of refusing to work, &c.

The management in the present case, when the Foreign Labour Department held an enquiry, does not refuse the coolies evidence, but accepts even the evidence from Chinese who, at two different times gave two different versions of their story. This fact only ought to have been sufficient to discard the distorted evidence against the coolies who, at the conclusion of the enquiry, were charged as being dangerous persons, and as such were removed from the compound. The fact of the five disgraced coolies who at the two enquiries held gave in each instance the same evidence was, it seems, not taken into consideration, as it was not perhaps in the interests of the management to do so, and the five coolies were unremittingly looked upon as dangerous to the peace of the compound.

As Compound Manager and as a person who knows his coolies better than any official or non-official gentleman, and is able to pass a candid opinion upon the character of the Chinese, who have been under his control for twelve months, I will say that I never reckoned the five coolies in question to be dangerous to the peace of the compound. I always found them to be of good character, obedient, law-abiding, and highly esteemed by their countrymen.

As soon as the five unfortunate coolies arrived at Langlaagte Mine Compound they were locked up in a small galvanized-iron room of the following dimensions (which I measured myself): 5 feet by 6 feet and 8 feet high; making a total air space of 240 cubic feet, whereas each coolie is entitled by law to 200 cubic feet of air space. The coolies were kept in that prison till the afternoon on next day (September 22nd). I saw the boys in the jail myself, and was surprised not to find any window in that closet. I may add, for general information, that this closet, used as a temporary jail, lies close to the time office, on the left-hand side on entering into the compound. I called at the Consulting Engineer's Office (Mr. H. Johns) the next day and told him that as I considered the investigation made unsatisfactory, and the treatment granted to the five coolies inhuman, I wished to sever at once my connection with the Witwatersrand Mine Compound. I understand that two out of the five coolies are to be sent back to China and that the others have been properly transferred to the Langlaagte Mine. In support of what I have stated above in connection with the evidence given by the various coolies at the enquiry, I will say that sometime last September the Foreign Labour Department sent to the mine a "Notification addressed to the Chinese Labourers working in the Mines."

This notification, written in Chinese, informed the coolies that a Superintendent of the Chinese had been appointed specially to safeguard the labourers' interests, &c., and that a box for lodging petitions in cases of grievances was to be provided by the mine, &c. According to instructions received, I ordered this notification to be posted up, and a box with a lock was provided in the compound.

On the night of September 17th, a coolie was struck by a policeman because the latter saw that he lodged a petition in the box. This box was also broken open and petitions destroyed the same night. When the abused coolie complained to me of this fact the next morning, I dismissed the policeman. On my informing the General Manager of this fact, he said that there was *no proof* against the policeman.

May I ask now of the General Manager if, in this case, the evidence of the coolie who was struck *was to be accepted or not*?

General Remarks.

If I suggested in my first report on the Chinese of December, 1902, that the question of women should be left in abeyance for a while, I did not, however, mean that it should be given up altogether.

It is true that some time last February all the Chinese employed on the various mines were asked, that should any of them wish to have his wife and children with him, the mine was bound to pay their passage to this country. The Chinese pointed out the fact that should their families be brought over how were they to feed them, as their daily wages were not sufficient to buy, owing to the very high cost of living, the plainest necessaries of life which their families required.

The underground tramming coolies pointed out the fact that as one pair of mine boots costing, say, from 10s. to 12s. 6d. lasted scarcely over a month, it was beyond conception to suppose that they should be able to keep their families on what was left out of their wages. (Trammers wages are rated at 1s. 3d. per diem, less 5s. a month for money advanced to coolies in China.)

It was upon these sound considerations, conveyed to me by most of the coolies, that I informed the General Office that the Chinese had expressed no intention of having their families with them.

But if the coolies, owing to their own reasons, decline to have their families brought over, it does not mean that the women question should be left in abeyance any longer.

I have frankly to admit that most of the desertion of coolies from compounds are mainly due, in my opinion, to the following reasons.

Bad treatment of the Chinese, underpaying the coolies, by disregarding the clauses of the coolie wages contained in the Labour Importation Ordinance, 1904 (of course this refers as far as my knowledge goes to the Witwatersrand Gold Mining Company only).

To the average of undesirables recruited and compounded in the various mines.

If the mine compounds contain a fair average of undesirable coolies, the fault is only to be traced in the general procedure adopted in recruiting men in China. I do not mean to say that by using a system of recruiting in preference to another one may obtain complete satisfaction and perfection as to the quality and efficiency of the men, but by adhering to a certain method of recruiting rather than another, one may most likely succeed in reducing the number of undesirables amongst recruited men to a smaller proportion.

Eugenio Bianchini.

Johannesburg, October 28, 1905.
Box 1676.

Enclosure 2 in No. 29.

PRIVATE SECRETARY TO GOVERNOR to Sir SOMERS VINE.

(Private.)

SIR, Lake Chrissie, Transvaal, November 1, 1905.

I AM desired by Lord Selborne to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 28th October, and to thank you for it.

Lord Selborne is causing a strict investigation to be made into all the specific allegations, contained in Mr. Bianchini's statement, of improper treatment of Chinese coolies employed by the Witwatersrand Gold Mining Company, Limited.

Should the result of this investigation be to show that there is *primâ facie* evidence of breaches of the law by any person or persons, Lord Selborne will order the prosecution of such person or persons.

I am to add that Mr. Bianchini has, of course, nothing to fear from the consequences of his having done his clear duty in bringing to Lord Selborne's notice what he believes to be instances of improper treatment of Chinese coolies.

I am, &c.,
D. O. MALCOLM,
Private Secretary.

Sir J. Somers Vine.

Enclosure 3 in No. 29.

PRIVATE SECRETARY TO GOVERNOR to Sir SOMERS VINE.

SIR, The Governor's Office, Johannesburg, December 11, 1905.

WITH reference to my letter of the 1st of November, I am desired by Lord Selborne to inform you that he has caused strict investigation to be made into the specific allegations contained in Mr. Bianchini's statement of improper treatment of Chinese coolies employed by the Witwatersrand Gold Mining Company, Limited.

Mr. Bianchini states, on page 3 of his letter, that compensation due to a disabled labourer was wrongfully withheld from him. With regard to this, Lord Selborne is informed that compensation in respect of the disabled coolie has been paid into the Office of the Superintendent of Foreign Labour, and that an artificial limb was fitted to the man during the latter part of August, that being the earliest date on which the state of the wound would admit of such a thing being done.

On pages 4 and 5 of his statement, Mr. Bianchini alleges that the Witwatersrand Gold Mining Company have failed to comply with Section 6 of the Contract of Service. The Superintendent of Foreign Labour reports that delay has taken place in connection with this matter, but that an assurance has been received from the mine management that the labourers will be credited with the extra sums due to them. Numbers of the labourers are working on piece-work agreements, and it is obviously a matter of difficulty to adjust accounts complicated by such arrangements. An additional complicating factor is the theft, supposed to have been committed by one of the labourers, of £200 worth of pay tickets, which have since been presented with forged signatures for payment.

With regard to Mr. Bianchini's statement on page 12 as to the alleged neglect on the part of the management of the mine to rectify errors in payments made to coolies, Lord Selborne is informed that this matter was brought to the notice of the management of the mine by the Superintendent of Foreign Labour, after an enquiry held by the Department on the 21st September into various complaints made by the coolies, and that it has since been rectified by the management.

On page 16 of his statement, Mr. Bianchini alleges that five coolies were confined with unnecessary severity. Lord Selborne learns from the Superintendent of Foreign Labour that there is no foundation for this statement. The coolies in question were removed from the compound for their safety after a disturbance which

had taken place among the labourers. Had they been allowed to return to the compound they would have been set upon and severely beaten by some of the other coolies.

With regard to Mr. Bianchini's statement on page 17 as to an assault by a Chinese policeman on a coolie, Lord Selborne is informed that the matter was enquired into by the Foreign Labour Department on the 21st September. An assault by one Chinese on another was undoubtedly committed, but as to the rights or wrongs of the case, the evidence was conflicting, and in view of the fact that at that time no legislation existed for bringing persons interfering with petition boxes to book, it was decided not to push the matter further.

Lord Selborne has not received any information which would warrant the prosecution of any person for improper conduct such as is alleged by Mr. Bianchini to have taken place.

The other statements contained in Mr. Bianchini's letter are of too general a character to admit of specific investigation. Nevertheless, Lord Selborne is much indebted to you for bringing these matters to his notice. He only wishes that other gentlemen had always taken the same course.

Yours, &c.,
D. O. Malcolm,
Private Secretary.

Sir J. Somers Vine,
P.O. Box 6242,
Johannesburg.

No. 30.

The EARL OF ELGIN to Governor the EARL OF SELBORNE.

(Sent 1.5 p.m., January 6, 1906.)

Telegram.

[*Answered by No.* 49.]

January 6. No. 3. I am anxious to learn exact position with regard to interpretorial staff. In how many mines is your rule* in force that there should be at least one white official thoroughly conversant with the Chinese language in every compound? The rule ought, I consider, to be strictly upheld in view of further numbers which are expected.

No. 31.

Governor the EARL OF SELBORNE to The EARL OF ELGIN.

(Received 2.48 p.m., January 6, 1906.)

Telegram.

January 6. No. 1. Referring to your telegram, 23rd December, No. 1,† I am sending by next mail‡ affidavits by A. Bassett Watts, Compound Manager of the Witwatersrand Deep, Limited, who has held this post since Chinese labourers were brought on to the mine, Frank G. A. Roberts, who acted as Manager of the Mine from the 30th April, 1905, to the 4th November, 1905, and Henry Hay, who has been Manager of the Mine from the time of the arrival of the Chinese, but was absent on leave for the period during which Roberts was Acting Manager. These affidavits state in each case that, so far as the period during which the person making the affidavit was on the property is concerned, the statements regarding the Witwatersrand Deep, Limited, contained in Boland's letter to the "Morning Leader" of the 6th September, 1905, are incorrect and untrue.

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* See No. 25 in [Cd. 2786], page 26. † No. 21. ‡ See No. 52.

No. 32.

GOVERNOR THE EARL OF SELBORNE to THE EARL OF ELGIN.

(Received 4.45 p.m., January 10, 1906.)

TELEGRAM.

January 10. No. 1. With refcrence to reported statements of Massingham in "Daily News" that he had reported to Superintendent of Foreign Labour case of Isai Ku Sheng a Chinese coolie who had been illegally flogged. Licutenant-Governor at once called for report which I now give verbatim:—

Begins: Report by R. Purdon, Inspector Foreign Labour Department, on the case of a Chinese being beaten on the North Randfontein Mine which case was brought to the notice of Mr. Jamieson by Mr. Massingham. The coolie's name is Isai Ku Sheng, Government passport number 5196. I examined this man on the 8th instant at the North Randfontein Mine. He said that about a week ago two big men from Johannesburg met him and one of them asked him in Chinese rather difficult to understand why he was limping, and whether he had been beaten by any white man. He said "I have been beaten and I have marks." I asked him who had beaten him; he said: "One of the Chinese police, but I do not know his name, I only know he was a policeman." I asked him in half-a-dozen different ways and half-a-dozen times whether he would like to prosecute the policeman, and told him that I would help him. He said he did not want to prosecute, and that he was quite satisfied. The presumption is that he deserved a licking, and knew it, and got it. *Ends.*

You will observe that this is case of one Chinaman being beaten by another, and that Mr. Massingham is hardly fair when he inveighs against the last sentence as being improper in an official report. Purdon is an officer of great value, and absolute master of Chinese language and character, and his report was rather in nature of a colloquially confidential report to his Departmental Chief than a formal report intended for publication. Jamieson showed it just as it was to Massingham because I had ordered him to let latter see everything he wished to see.

No. 33.

GOVERNOR THE EARL OF SELBORNE to THE EARL OF ELGIN.

(Received 5.8 p.m., January 10, 1906.)

TELEGRAM.

January 10. No. 2. Your telegram, 2nd January, No. 2.* No prosecution has been instituted or is about to be instituted in connection with any of the charges made by Boland. It is impossible to obtain sufficient evidence on which a particular charge can be brought against a particular person on such general charges as Boland makes. The information on which he made them he says he obtained from Chinese Controllers who have left the country. The information obtained officially in connection with them, and which I communicated to you in my despatch, 20th November,† did not appear to my legal advisers to furnish ground for a prosecution. Every complaint of ill-treatment made by a Chinese labourer is always fully investigated by an inspector and if there is evidence to support it a prosecution is instituted. You may rely upon everything being done that can be done to prevent ill-treatment and to bring those guilty of ill-treatment before the Court.

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* No. 26. † No. 14.

No. 34.

Governor Sir WALTER F. HELY-HUTCHINSON (Cape) to The EARL OF ELGIN.

(Received 12 noon, January 12, 1906.)

Telegram.

[*Acknowledged by No.* 43.]

January 12. No. 1. Deputation headed by the Honourable J. H. Hofmeyr has presented and requested me to transmit to you by cable following Resolution passed at meeting of members of Africander Bond and others held at Cape Town on 9th January:—

Resolution begins: This meeting having seen—

(*a.*) That the following has been published in an influential organ of the London press: English and Boers, the hitherto loyal and the permanently disloyal, will now combine to cut the painter and politely and unanimously usher the British garrison and flag out of South Africa. This must be the upshot unless the electors dispossess the Liberals; and

(*b.*) That these words are accepted in influential circles as worthy of belief;

Hereby emphatically declare that they are without any, even the slightest, foundation; that they are based on no facts whatsoever; and that they originated only in the fertile imagination of the writers from whose brain they emanate. Wherefore this meeting decided to take steps to make this known to the British people and to request the British Government not to allow themselves to be influenced by such tales in their policy regarding the immigration of Chinese into South Africa, being convinced that the policy which they have already outlined in this connection will in no way lead to dissatisfaction or to separatist movements on the part of the Africander people. *Ends.*

No. 35.

The EARL OF ELGIN to Governor the EARL OF SELBORNE.

(Sent 1.5 p.m., January 13, 1906.)

Telegram.

[*Answered by No.* 56.]

January 13. No. 1. Referring to your despatch of 4th December,* Jamieson stated 20th November that he would require ten inspectors to ensure that every mine on the reef shall be visited by an inspector at least once in forty-eight hours, and made no reference to additional numbers of coolies.

Your telegram, 4th December, No. 1,† states that, in Jamieson's opinion, eleven will be sufficient for the increased number of labourers applied for. May I still confidently accept the statement in your telegram of 4th December that eleven inspectors will be sufficient?

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* No. 20.

† Not printed.

No. 36.

The EARL OF ELGIN to Governor The EARL OF SELBORNE.

(Sent 3.18 p.m., January 16, 1906.)

Telegram.

[*Answered by Nos. 37 and 70.*]

January 16. No. 2. Your telegrams, 10th January, Nos. 1 and 2,* and your despatch, 18th December.† It will be necessary to publish papers regarding Chinese labour when Parliament meets, and His Majesty's Government will have a number of questions addressed to them arising from allegations as to treatment of labourers. Your despatch of 18th September,‡ which has been published, reports favourably as to their general treatment as regards food, health, compound, hospitals, and similar comforts, and I hope to receive shortly your account as to efficiency of the new system of magisterial jurisdiction exercised by the Superintendent and Inspectors, but it is also desirable that I should be able to show that these officers are fully and efficiently carrying out their primary duties under the Labour Importation Ordinance as Inspectors for the protection of the Chinese and for investigation of their complaints, and I desire to be furnished with all available evidence on this head.

I also need information as to what are precise functions of the Chinese compound police, by whom they are appointed, and what are their legal powers, if any.

I am sending, for your observations, articles by Massingham and Boland containing serious allegations as to action of Chinese police.

I notice a telegram from Johannesburg in the newspapers of 11th January stating that it is emphatically declared on behalf of mine managers that whatever flogging has occurred since June has been purely among the Chinese themselves, and that whenever a case has been reported rigorous action has been taken. Such a case as that referred to in your telegram of 10th January, No. 1,§ cannot be an isolated one, and the assurance that flogging has been practically stopped and that prosecution will take place when sufficient legal evidence is available will not be deemed sufficient in the absence of any single actual prosecution by the Government which can be pointed to as proof of the vigilance of its officers. I agree entirely with my predecessor that irregular and illegal corporal punishment cannot be tolerated. This would undoubtedly apply to flogging by Chinese police and failing conclusive evidence that such practices are effectually prohibited by all concerned I think it may be necessary to appoint a Commission for investigation of the question.

With regard to wages I need full information as to what is being earned by the Chinese and by the natives. I presume the Government Mining Engineer or the Superintendent of Foreign Labour can readily furnish particulars. The latter should explain method of payment for work done under the contract and should comment on any serious complaints which have been brought to his notice, as well as on the statements made in the enclosure to your despatch† as to alleged practice of compelling Chinese to drill holes in blocks of stones to make up their 36 inches and as to coolies not being given work by bosses.

Have any cases been brought to notice of Superintendent where rations prescribed under contract have been withheld, and if so what action has been taken?

Explanation is also required as to larger percentage of Chinese not at work on last day of month as compared with natives.

No. 37.

Governor The EARL OF SELBORNE to The EARL OF ELGIN.

(Received 4.17 p.m., January 18, 1906.)

Telegram.

January 18. No. 2. Your telegram, 16th January, No. 2.‖ I will send you a full report on all points by mail.

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* Nos. 32 and 33. † No. 29. ‡ No. 25 in Cd. 2786. § No. 32. ‖ No. 36.

Meanwhile I welcome the suggestion of a Commission, which I myself proposed before the present Government took office. Indeed, I advise the appointment of such a Commission before Parliament meets. I know the mining industry would welcome it. For evidence of this see Lord Harris's speech at meeting Consolidated Goldfields on 21st November. I need not say that the only conditions I would make are that the Commission should be composed of really impartial and judicially minded men, and that the evidence should be on oath.

I assume, of course, that the settlement of the Constitutional question and calling together of an assembly recognised as being able to settle the question of further importation of Chinese labour would be in no way prejudiced by the appointment of the proposed Commission.

No. 38.

THE EARL OF ELGIN to GOVERNOR THE EARL OF SELBORNE.

(Sent 5.55 p.m., January 19, 1906.)

TELEGRAM.

[*Answered by No.* 44.]

January 19. No. 1. My telegram, 5th January, No. 4.* I should be glad to receive a reply soon.

No. 39.

GOVERNOR THE EARL OF SELBORNE to THE EARL OF ELGIN.

(Received January 20, 1906.)

MY LORD, Governor's Office, Johannesburg, December 30, 1905.

IN view of the decision of His Majesty's Government that the further importation of Chinese labourers into the Transvaal should be arrested, pending the institution of a Representative Legislature, the following observations on the general question of the unskilled labour supply required for various purposes in the Transvaal may, perhaps, be of interest.

In the first place, it has long been accepted as axiomatic that, unless resort was had to the outrageous expedient of forcing the native inhabitants of the country to work for white employers, the Transvaal would be hopelessly unable to satisfy its elementary requirements for unskilled labour if labourers were not imported from beyond its borders.

For years past a great proportion of the mining industry, the one great industry of the country other than agriculture, has depended almost entirely on native labour from Portuguese East Africa. As is shown in the Majority Report of the Transvaal Native Labour Commission, the proportion of native labourers from Portuguese East Africa employed on the Witwatersrand Gold Mines on the 31st January, 1903, amounted to 88·9 per cent. of the whole supply.† Since June, 1904, the industry has, on an average, been dependent for 61·17 per cent. of its native labour supply on the same source; and, according to the latest available figures, those for November,

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* No. 28.

† See p. 28 of [Cd. 1896], February, 1904.

1905, 64·85 per cent. of the native labourers employed in all labour districts in the Transvaal come from Portuguese territories.

But the African supply of labour, even including that from Portuguese East Africa, has long been insufficient to meet the ever growing demands of the Transvaal. And the more the general prosperity of the Transvaal increases the less does the native labour supply suffice to meet its requirements.

In this connection I would invite your attention to an interesting statement, prepared by the Chairman of the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association, which forms the Appendix to the Memorandum enclosed in my despatch of to-day's date.* You will see from that statement that the more the general prosperity of the country increases the more does the demand for native labour within labour districts, for employment other than mining, increase. And this process acts detrimentally to the mining industry because private employers requiring the services of only a few natives can afford to pay them higher wages than even the wealthy gold mining companies of the Rand can afford to pay to the enormous numbers of natives whom they employ. At the same time private employment, especially domestic employment, is more attractive than mine labour. And it may reasonably be expected that as the native advances in civilization he will be more ready to apply for such employment and more fit for it than he is at present.

If, therefore, the mining industry were to be dependent on African labour alone, it seems probable that it would continue to dwindle through lack of labour due to the successful competition of private employers, but that the diminution of the general prosperity, which would inevitably follow from the dwindling of the mining industry, would, in time, release a larger proportion of the native labour supply for employment on the mines. It would be impossible that the mining industry and private business should both enjoy the steady expansion which they may reasonably expect.

It was this dearth of native labour which, as you are aware, led to the introduction of Chinese labour to supplement the deficiency of native labour for the mines.

And here I would respectfully protest against the view that the importation of Chinese coolies was only intended to bring the mining industry back to the position which it held before the war. That was a position from which, so far as can be judged by all the available evidence, it could never have advanced if it had been wholly dependent upon the native labour supply. It is essential, in the interests of the growth of the number and prosperity of the people of the Transvaal, that the Transvaal should not be hindered in the development of its vast potential mineral resources at a reasonably rapid rate of progress. This progress is obviously necessary in the interests of the industrial, commercial, and professional communities, and equally necessary in the interests of the agricultural community, which depends upon the first-named communities for a market for its products. What the mining industry's probable prospective demand for native labour is, with a view to its proper expansion, is fully discussed in the Majority Report of the Transvaal Native Labour Commission.

The conclusion come to in that report was that 197,644 labourers were required to work the whole mining industry of the Transvaal, including the coal mining industry, as it existed in July, 1903, on the best economic conditions, and without making any allowance whatever for expansion, whereas only 68,280 labourers were actually employed in July, 1903. The requirements of the gold mines of the Witwatersrand alone at the same date were estimated at 172,700 natives, whereas the supply for these mines amounted only to 55,507. The report further anticipated that the mines of the Witwatersrand alone would require, within five years from the date of the report, an additional supply of a further 196,000 labourers, if the industry was to expand as it should.

These conclusions are based on the calculation that approximately 20 natives are required for each stamp dropped, in order to work the mines in the most economical way, and that a further native labour supply, over and above that required for

* No. 40.

the producing mines, is required for development work on the mines which will gradually become productive.

Now, the total coloured labour supply, including natives and Chinese, employed on the Witwatersrand mines alone in November, 1905, amounts to only 132,615. Therefore, the Witwatersrand gold mines at the present time have a less supply of coloured labour than was estimated by the majority of the Transvaal Native Labour Commission to be necessary for those mines in 1903. It is probable that the requirements of the gold mining industry, as estimated by the majority of the Transvaal Native Labour Commission, were somewhat exaggerated. The Commissioners could hardly foresee the protracted continuance of financial depression, and the difficulty of finding money for starting new mining ventures. According to the latest estimate, which I have received from the Acting Commissioner of Mines, the number of unskilled labourers required for each stamp at work is approximately 16·5. According to the returns of the Mines Department for November, 1905, there were 6,935 stamps at work on the Witwatersrand and 116,894 of the coloured labourers, natives and Chinese, employed by the Witwatersrand mines, were employed on producing mines. The Mines Department estimates that the probable number of new stamps, which will be erected within five years from now, is 6,160. Assuming that these are all at work, together with the total number of stamps now erected, viz., 7,965, there will be at work in five years from now a total number of 14,125 stamps. According to the Mines Department the total number of non-producing mines (*i.e.*, mines in the stage of development) will, at the end of five years from now, be 30. At that date, therefore, according to these estimates, the number of coloured persons required for producing mines will be 14,125 × 16·5 equals 233,062, and the number of coloured persons required for non-producing mines will be 30 by 310 (which is taken as the average number of coloured persons employed on each non-producing mine) equals 9,300, making a total of 242,362, or, roughly, 110,000 more than are now employed by the Witwatersrand Gold Mining Companies. This, of course, is a mere estimate which, in the nature of things, cannot pretend to absolute accuracy. But I do not think that it can be far from the truth, assuming that that expansion of the industry to which the Transvaal looks forward, and which alone can largely increase its British population, takes place.

It can hardly be repeated too often that the existing industrial organization, to say nothing of the existing machinery of Government of the Transvaal, could not be justified if the position of the gold mining industry, at the highest point to which it has hitherto attained, is to be taken as its permanent high-water mark. The existing industrial organization and the existing machinery of Government can only be justified by the anticipation of a steady and reasonable expansion of the industry. That expansion is steadily taking place. In August, 1899, there were 6,242 stamps at work in the whole Transvaal, which, in that month, produced gold worth £1,720,907. In November, 1905, as already stated, there were 6,935 stamps at work in the Witwatersrand gold mines, and 7,345 in the whole Transvaal, producing in that month gold worth £1,729,742 for the Witwatersrand, and gold worth £1,799,595 for the whole Transvaal. But, unless this expansion is allowed to proceed regularly and without any artificial check, both Government and industry will find themselves confronted with a serious crisis, the least effect of which will be to curtail greatly the sphere of usefulness of the Government, and to close down many of the works of the industry.

This deplorable state of things would arise from the fact that the mining companies, in anticipation of the regular supply of labour, which they require, have embarked on an enormous expenditure in the way of development work, and of enlarging their sphere of mining operations, the whole of which expenditure would be thrown away if the regular supply of labour, upon which they have reckoned, were to be checked. I am not yet in a position to state with any accuracy what this expenditure amounts to, or what may be estimated as being the ultimate effects of the loss of it. But I will give, as an instance of how the sudden curtailment of the labour supply would affect the mining industry, the following figures, which have been furnished to me by the Chamber of Mines. Of the Chinese coolies, for whose importation licences have already been issued, but who have not yet arrived in this country, 11,700 have been ordered for the Consolidated Goldfields Group, the Eckstein Group, the East Rand Group, and the General Mining and Finance Group

In anticipation of the arrival of these 11,700 coolies, the four groups which I have named have actually incurred or are on the point of giving orders incurring an expenditure amounting to not less than £2,000,000 for machinery and plant, and for the erection of compounds for Chinese and quarters for married and single white workmen.

It is hardly necessary to enlarge on the financial consequences which would follow from the expenditure of such a sum of money being rendered fruitless. The figures which I have quoted are not given as precisely accurate, but they may be taken as sufficiently reliable as to serve as an illustration of my argument.

You will notice that throughout the foregoing I have been dealing with the gold mining industry only. I have said nothing about the labour supply which may be required in the future to develop the other mineral resources of the Transvaal, in the shape of coal, tin, copper or asbestos. Information is not yet available which would enable me to speak with certainty as to what the potentialities of the Transvaal are in the way of tin or asbestos, but I am quite sure that they are great. In addition, the Premier Diamond Mine has now reached a stage of development at which an increase in its supply of labour, and a large increase, is urgently required. It is worth while here to mention that the Governor of Cape Colony informs me that the Kimberley Diamond Mines are short by several thousands of the number of native labourers they require. I understand also that Natal still requires more Indian coolies for agricultural purposes. This shows that this deficiency of labour for industrial and agricultural development is universal throughout South Africa.

Agriculture, indeed, cries out everywhere for labour, and will find it even harder to satisfy its requirements than it does at present if the mines, through the stoppage of their Chinese labour supply, are driven to strain every nerve to draw labour from agriculture to mining. Everywhere, in the Orange River Colony and Transvaal alike, the farmers ask me insistently for more labour, and already several of them have formally asked leave to import coolies under a system of indenture as in Natal.

The real question, after all, is whether the Transvaal is to be condemned to forgo its potential development through lack of an available labour supply, or whether, since it is admitted on all hands that the development of the country cannot be measured by its indigenous labour supply, or even by the labour supply which can be drawn from British South Africa, its development is to be retarded owing to some distinction of principle, which I confess I do not understand, between the importation of Africans from Portuguese East Africa and of Chinese from China.

I have, &c.,
SELBORNE,
Governor.

No. 40.

GOVERNOR THE EARL OF SELBORNE to THE EARL OF ELGIN.

(Received January 20, 1906.)

MY LORD, Governor's Office, Johannesburg, December 30, 1905.

I HAVE dealt with general South African labour problems in another despatch,* and I now have the honour to transmit to you the accompanying memorandum giving an estimate of some of the financial and industrial consequences which would follow from the withdrawal of all the Chinese labourers now employed on the gold mines of the Witwatersrand.

I do not imagine that His Majesty's Government are contemplating any step so drastic as the removal of the Chinese labourers now in the Colony, but I think

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* No. 39.

it my duty to explain quite clearly the extent to which the prosperity of the Transvaal, and, indeed, of all South Africa, depends on the stability of the gold mining industry of the Witwatersrand and the extent to which the stability of that industry depends upon the continued employment of Chinese labourers.

The figures given in the memorandum require some explanation, though the truth of the main contention on which it is based cannot, I think, be disputed. This contention is that Johannesburg and the whole commercial, industrial, and professional community of the Witwatersrand depend absolutely upon the gold mining industry; that were it not for the gold mining industry the whole Witwatersrand would be bare veld, as it was before the gold mines were discovered; that the gold mining industry cannot exist without an adequate supply of unskilled labour, and that, therefore, if the Chinese, who constitute one-third of that unskilled labour supply, were withdrawn, one-third of the industry, and with it one-third of the community which depends upon it, would eventually disappear.

I do not, of course, mean that one-third of the industry and one-third of the community which depends upon it would disappear suddenly and absolutely, leaving the rest of the body politic whole. The withdrawal of one-third of the unskilled labour supply of the mines would not mean the sudden cessation of precisely one-third of their work, but it would mean partial paralysis of the whole, the eventual result of which would be to reduce the mining industry to two-thirds of its former dimensions.

In the same way the sudden withdrawal of a certain proportion of the trade of the country would, as I hold, in the end, lead to the reduction of the general business prosperity by the same proportion, though this reduced condition would only be reached through a cruel period of collapse and stagnation of the whole business organisation.

Nevertheless, it remains true, in my opinion, that if one-third of the labour supply of the mines were withdrawn without being replaced from any other source, the eventual results which would flow from such withdrawal would be approximately as stated in the memorandum, whether the period which would elapse before those results were arrived at were long or short.

The calculations given in the memorandum do not pretend to mathematical accuracy, being, as they are, based on inferences of what would follow from a hypothetical state of things. The matter is not one in which strict accuracy is attainable, but I am satisfied that, granted the premises on which the memorandum is based, the conclusions drawn in it cannot be far from the truth.

I do not attempt to depict the economic or political consequences to South Africa of so grave an industrial and financial crisis as that which would surely arise under the circumstances supposed. I do know that the amount of human distress and suffering would be terrible.

I have, &c.,
SELBORNE,
Governor.

Enclosure in No. 40.

AN ESTIMATE of some of the Probable Effects which would follow from removing the Chinese Labourers now employed on the Witwatersrand.

I. *Employment of White Labour.*

In May, 1904 (last month before Chinese arrived), 12,414 white men were employed.

In October, 1905 (last month for which figures are available), 17,353 white men and 45,956 Chinese were employed.

But in May, 1904, only 70,608 natives were employed, as against 87,119 in October, 1905.

Part, therefore, of the increase in the employment of white labour during the

period from May, 1904, to October, 1905, must be put down to the increase in native labour.

But comparing July, 1899 (the latest month before the war for which reliable figures are available), with October, 1905, we find that in July, 1899, the labour employed on the Witwatersrand mines was :—

Whites.	Natives.	Ratio of White to Coloured.
12,530	107,482	1 to 8·57

and in October, 1905 :—

Whites.	Natives.	Chinese.	Ratio of White to Coloured.
17,353	87,119	41,956	1 to 7·66

Now, taking the 1899 ratio of white to coloured labour, 87,119 natives should represent 10,165 white employees. Taking the 1905 ratio, 87,119 natives represent 11,373 whites. Therefore, from a comparison of the figures for October, 1905, with those for July, 1899, it appears that 45,956 Chinese have given employment, at the most; to 17,353 – 10,165 = 7,188 white labourers, and, at the least, to 17,353 – 11,373 = 5,980 white labourers.

Clearly the large number of white men employed in May, 1904 (12,414 *vide supra*, and in the proportion of 1 to 5.688 to the coloured labour employed), was an abnormal number, due to the special work which had to be done in anticipation of the arrival of the Chinese.

The most immediate direct effect of sending away all the Chinese would, therefore, be to throw out of work from 6,000 to 7,000 white men now employed on the mines—say 6,000, so as to be on the safe side.

The same thing can be shown in another way.

The figures for October, 1905 (*vide supra*), show a labour force of :—

Whites.	Natives.	Chinese.	Total, Coloured.
17,353	87,119	45,956	133,075

As regards the number of white men employed, it is immaterial whether the coloured labour employed is native or Chinese.

If the total coloured labour force is reduced by the removal of 45,956 Chinese, *i.e.*, by rather more than one-third, the white labour force will be reduced in the same proportion, *i.e.*, say, from 5,800 to 6,000 white men will be thrown out of employment.

The indirect results on the employment of white labour would be more far-reaching, but are much harder to estimate.

It has been estimated (*see* Mr. H. H. Webb's evidence before the Transvaal Labour Commission, questions Nos. 11,884 and 11,885) that, for every white man employed on the Witwatersrand mines, there are twelve white inhabitants of the Witwatersrand. According to the latest census this is an over-estimate.

The latest census, which was taken on the 17th April, 1904, shows 114,021 white persons resident on the Witwatersrand, not including the agricultural portion of Krugersdorp, *i.e.*, resident on the mining and industrial area proper.

Now, in April, 1904, the number of white men directly employed by the Witwatersrand gold mines was 12,039. Therefore, the proportion between the number

of white men directly employed by the mines and the total white population of the Witwatersrand is about 1 to 9.5.

Of the 114,021 persons above referred to, 51,518 were adult males.

Deducting the 12,039 white men directly employed, we find that there were on the Witwatersrand in April, 1904, 39,479 adult white males, who must have owed their livelihood indirectly to the mines, as gold mining is the only industry in the Witwatersrand area.

The proportion between 12,039 and 39,479 is roughly 1 to 3, and the actual population of the Witwatersrand area has increased since April, 1904, *pari passu* with the growth of the mining industry.

Therefore, it is fair to say that, if through the sending away of all the Chinese labourers, the operations of the mining industry were curtailed by one-third, and from 5,800 to 6,000 white men directly employed by the mines were to lose their employment, from 17,400 to 18,000 white men, indirectly dependent upon the mines, would, sooner or later, lose their means of livelihood also.

N.B.—It must not be for a moment supposed that the industrial and commercial effects of such a crisis would be felt only on the Witwatersrand. The trade, commerce, and industry of South Africa is really all one from the Cape to the Zambesi, and the effects of the crisis would manifest themselves in every Colony.

II. *Effect on Trade and Tradesmen of the Transvaal.*

In October, 1905, with the labour forces specified above, the Witwatersrand mines dropped 6,725 stamps, producing, in that month, £1,692,918 worth of gold.

According to the Chamber of Mines (*see* their statement to the Labour Commission Report, p. 590), the local trade accounts of the mining companies work out at £55 per stamp per month.

Therefore, the value of local stores consumed during October, 1905 (including coal), was £55 × 6,725, equals £369,875, *i.e.*, at the rate of £4,438,500 per annum.

The approximate wages paid to white men during October, 1905, were at the rate of £5,413,136 per annum.

The wages earned by Chinese during October, 1905, were £81,292, *i.e.*, at the rate of £975,504 per annum.

Practically the whole of these wages are spent locally, the sums remitted by the Chinese to their own country being so small as to be practically negligible. During the first six months of this year only about £16,000 of the wages earned by the Chinese were paid to their relatives in China under the allotment scheme.

If, therefore, all the Chinese were sent home, and, as a consequence, the total operations of the mining industry were reduced by one-third, the sums of money now spent locally would be reduced by the following amounts :—

(i.) Practically the whole of the wages earned by the Chinese, say	£975,504
(ii.) One-third of £4,438,500, being the annual expenditure of the mining companies on local stores (*vide supra*)	1,479,500
(iii.) One-third of £5,413,136, being the annual expenditure of the mines on white men's wages (*vide supra*)	1,804,378
	£4,259,382

In round figures, four and a quarter millions per annum.

These calculations are admittedly only approximate, but they cannot be far from the truth. How the loss, which would be involved in a diminution of the local expenditure of the mining industry by £4,259,382 a year, would be distributed among the trading community, it is impossible to say; but it is not hard to believe that such a loss would mean loss of employment to 18,000 white men. These calculations, therefore, bear out the remarks made in Part I. of this memorandum.

III. *Probable Effect on Revenue.*

The effects upon revenue, which would follow from the removal of the Chinese, are even harder to estimate with accuracy than the effects upon the employment of white labour or the effects upon the trading community.

The withdrawal of the Chinese would make itself felt directly on two main heads of revenue :—

(i.) The 10 per cent. tax on the net profits of gold mining;
(ii.) The Customs.

(i.) The profits tax depends upon the output of gold. Premising, as before, that one-third of the gold mining industry depends upon the Chinese, we must assume that one-third of the profits tax is earned for the revenue by the Chinese.

Now, the estimate of revenue from the profits tax for the financial year 1905-6 is £450,000. Therefore, if the Chinese were removed, the revenue would lose £150,000.

(ii.) It has been shown above that, if the Chinese were withdrawn, the local expenditure of mines would be reduced by £4,250,000 per annum. It is obvious that this reduction of local expenditure would result in an enormous diminution of the revenue accruing from general trading licences, mining licences, and miscellaneous mining dues. What the further effects of this diminution of local expenditure might be, *i.e.*, what part of the £4,250,000 finds its way into the revenue it is impossible to say with any attempt at accuracy; but it is obvious that the loss to the trading community resulting from the withdrawal of £4,250,000 a year from circulation would necessarily be reflected in the revenue returns.

This loss to revenue would principally make itself felt in the diminution of Customs receipts.

Under the South African Customs Union Tariff, all articles not subject to special duties and not on the free list are subject to a general *ad valorem* import duty of 10 per cent. Setting off the articles subject to special duties against those on the free list, it is found that about 11 per cent. of the value of all imported goods is paid into the Customs.

Now, assuming, as seems fair, having regard to the poverty of South Africa in all industries except those of agriculture and mining, that £2,000,000 of the £4,250,000 above referred to, would be spent on imported articles if the Chinese were not withdrawn, and that retail prices in Johannesburg are 100 per cent. higher than the original over-sea cost of imported articles, the loss to Customs revenue from this source which would follow from the withdrawal of the Chinese would be 11 per cent. on half of £2,000,000, equals £1,000,000, *i.e.*, £110,000, or, to make a conservative estimate, say, £100,000 a year.

It may fairly be said, therefore, that the loss to the Transvaal revenue, which would follow from the withdrawal of the Chinese, would amount to at least (i.), £150,000; (ii.), £100,000; total, £250,000 a year; in addition to the loss from general trading licences, mining licences, and miscellaneous mining dues, which cannot be calculated.

IV. *Probable Effect on Revenues of Central South African Railways, Natal Government Railways, and Cape Government Railways.*

In estimating this it is necessary to refer to the general contention on which this memorandum is based, viz., that the whole of Johannesburg and the Witwatersrand depends upon the gold mining industry, and that the gold mining industry depends upon its unskilled labour supply. If, therefore, this unskilled labour supply is reduced by one-third, the railway traffic to and from Johannesburg and the Witwatersrand stations will eventually be reduced by one-third.

Now, the Central South African Railways Administration states that the Johannesburg and Witwatersrand traffic amounts to three-fifths of the whole traffic of the Central South African Railways. The loss of one-third of these three-fifths

means, of course, the loss of one-fifth of the whole traffic. Now, assuming that this loss was distributed among the railway systems which supply the Transvaal in proportion to the amount of Transvaal traffic which they now carry, the Central South African Railways would lose in railway revenue (including revenue for through and local traffic) £853,223 per annum.

The Cape Government Railways would lose in railway revenue (from through traffic only) £245,330 per annum.

The Natal Government Railways would lose in railway revenue £208,514 per annum.

(*See* the report of the General Manager of the Central South African Railways for 1904, Statement No. XV.)

V. *Effect on Colonial Budgets.*

The Inter-Colonial estimates for 1905-6 show an estimated revenue of £5,990,831, including a contribution of £973,838 from the Transvaal and Orange River Colony, and an estimated expenditure of the same amount. If, therefore, the Central South African Railways were to lose £853,223 in revenue (*see* Ch. IV.), the contributions of the Transvaal and Orange River Colony would have to be increased by this amount, unless Inter-Colonial Council expenditure were proportionately reduced. In fact, of course, Inter-Colonial Council expenditure would be largely reduced, because the staff and working expenses of the railways would be reduced as revenue fell off, though not to the same extent. No account has, however, been taken of this in the ensuing calculation, which is given as being illustrative of the loss to the community which would follow *in some form or other* from the stagnation in railway traffic referred to above (*e.g.*, the reductions in railway staff would swell the ranks of the unemployed and increase the general distress alike in all the Colonies affected).

Assuming that the additional contribution were borne by the Transvaal and Orange River Colony, respectively, in the present proportion of roughly $5\frac{1}{2} : 1$, Transvaal expenditure would be increased (roughly) by £722,000, and Orange River Colony expenditure (roughly) by £131,000.

Now, the Transvaal estimates for 1905-6 show revenue £4,545,000, ordinary net expenditure £4,447,151, *i.e.*, an estimated surplus of £97,849. This surplus would, therefore, be turned into a deficit of £624,151 by the increased contribution which would be required by the Inter-Colonial Council.

At the same time, Transvaal revenue would have fallen off by at least £250,000 a year (*see* Ch. III.).

The total Transvaal deficit would, therefore, amount to £874,151 (*see* note on next page), unless expenditure were proportionately reduced. Expenditure could not be thus reduced without disastrous consequences to the most vital interests of the Colony, such as education, agriculture, irrigation, and the improvement of communications by road and rail.

The Orange River Colony estimates for 1905-6 show revenue £695,000, expenditure £792,680, deficit £97,680, to be made up from cash balances. The deficit would be increased to £228,680 (*see* Note) by the increased contribution, which would be required from the Orange River Colony, a deficit which the total cash balances available on the 30th June, 1905, would only just have been sufficient to meet for one year.

The Cape Colony estimates for 1905-6 show revenue £8,880,000, expenditure £8,828,005, surplus £52,000.

If, therefore, the Cape Colony lost £245,330 in railway revenue; the surplus of £52,000 would be converted into a deficit of £193,330 (*see* Note).

The Natal estimates for 1905-6 show revenue £3,966,000, expenditure (out of revenue) £3,933,857, surplus £32,143.

If, therefore, Natal lost £208,514 in railway revenue the surplus of £32,143 would be converted into a deficit of £176,371 (*see* Note.)

Note.—These deficits would, of course, be reduced by whatever economies the Central South African Railways, the Cape Government Railways, or the Natal Government Railways had been able to effect by the discharge of staff and reduction of working expenses.

VI. *Effect of Chinese Labour on the Native Labour Supply.*

In this connection the attached statement by the Chairman of the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association, Appendix "A," is interesting.

The argument of that statement is that there is, in normal times, a more or less fixed quantity of native labour available for all kinds of employment. As the general prosperity increases, a greater proportion of the supply finds its way into employments other than mining. As the general prosperity decreases, the supply tends to find its way back to the mines.

Now, the recent increase in the general prosperity, which can only be due to the use of Chinese labour on the mines, has diminished the native labour supply for mining. If the Chinese labourers were sent away, no doubt a larger number of native labourers than are now employed by the mines would be available for mining; but this would only be because of the blow which would be dealt by the withdrawal of the Chinese to the general prosperity. And in any case any possible increase in the native labour supply for the mines which could take place in this way could not come within measurable distance of compensating the mines for the loss of the Chinese.

It should further be pointed out that Appendix "A" relates only to the employment of native labour within labour districts, *i.e.*, it takes no account of the agricultural district where the demand for labour is everywhere urgent and where the farmers cannot afford to pay such high wages as the mines.

If the Chinese were withdrawn, the mines, in spite of any increase in their native labour supply which might follow from the fall in the general prosperity, would be in such straits for labour that they would use every effort to attract it from the agricultural districts by offers of wages with which the farmers could not compete. Thus, the position of the farmers, as regards their labour supply, in many parts of the country would become impossible.

Appendix "A."

Memorandum.

I have lately had an opportunity of examining the statistics compiled by the Native Affairs Department, showing the total number of natives working under European employers in labour districts only of the Transvaal. These districts include Johannesburg, Germiston, Krugersdorp, Boksburg, Heidelburg, Klerksdorp, Vereeniging, and Pretoria (district, not municipality). They do not, therefore, include the natives at work in the Barberton district or in the Lydenburg district, or on any of the low country mines.

The figures give the total number employed at the end of each month from July, 1904, to September, 1905. The natives employed are divided into two classes, (A) those employed "On Mines and Works," which includes gold, coal, and diamond mines, a few lime and brick works, electric works, Zuurbekom Waterworks and the dynamite factory; and (B) natives in "Other Employ." This includes the Central South African Railways, Public Works, Government Departments, domestic service, contractors (whether employed on mines or not), and other private employments.

There is some interest in a comparison of the figures of those two classes month by month, and also in a comparison of the figures of Class (A) with the figures of natives employed by members of this Association.

I.

First of all, let us take the total number of natives employed in labour districts in the Transvaal, including both Classes (A) and (B). This was 130,258 at the end of July, 1904, and fell in August, 1904, to 129,922. From that time there was a steady increase every month, until high-water mark was reached in April, 1905, when the total number of natives employed was 185,681. I shall return presently to analyse these figures. From April to September there was a steady decrease, the total number of natives employed in labour districts on the 30th September last being 177,061.

The first point to notice is that the increase or decrease in the total number of natives employed is by no means parallel to the increase or decrease in the number of those employed on "Mines and Works." From April to September it will be seen that there was a decrease in the total number employed of 8,620. But the decrease of those employed on "Mines and Works" was 13,211. In the number of those in "Other Employ" there was an actual increase of 4,591, the number so employed in April being 74,820, and in September 79,411. It would thus appear that the decrease in the number of natives employed on mines during the last six months is partially accounted for by the increased demand for labour of other employers, not mining, in mining districts. As the rate of wages ruling outside the mines is generally higher than that ruling on the mines, other employers have, of course, the first call on the total labour available, and an increased demand on their part means a necessary shrinkage in the native labour available for the mines, even if the total amount of labour available in mining districts does not diminish. The demands of "Other Employers," within mining districts, appear to have been steadily rising for over a year. In July, 1904, "Other Employ" accounted for 55,973 natives. This number had risen to 75,462 in February, 1905. It was a few hundred less in March, April, and May, and then rose again month by month to the September figure of 79,411.

II.

To take a second basis of comparison over the same period, namely, that between the number of natives employed by "Mines and Works" and the number employed by the members of the Association. The decrease in the number of natives employed by members of the Association (including contractors' natives) between April and September was 10,580. As stated above, the decrease in "Mines and Works" as a whole was 13,211. The decrease in the number employed on "Mines and Works" outside members of the Association was, therefore, 2,631, the total number employed on "Mines and Works," excluding the members of the Association, being 14,647 in April and 12,016 in September. This shows a decrease of 15 per cent. in the natives employed by "Mines and Works" other than members of the Association, as against a decrease of 11 per cent. in the number of natives employed by members of the Association. Considering that the "Mines and Works" other than members of the Association include employers like the Premier Diamond Company and the Dynamite Factory, which pay higher wages than the mines, it would appear that members of the Association are suffering less from the shortage of labour than other mining employers.

III.

It is also instructive to compare the number of natives employed in labour districts at the three following periods:—September, 1904, April, 1905, and September, 1905.

The number employed in April, 1905, is so greatly in excess of the normal number at any time past that it cannot be reckoned upon as a permanent basis of supply. The total number of natives employed in labour districts in September, 1904, was 135,954, and this appears to be somewhere in the neighbourhood of the normal number employed since the war, and to be at least as great as the normal number employed before the war. On this latter point it is impossible to speak absolutely, because the statistics of natives employed otherwise than on the mines before the war are founded merely on estimates, which, however, are likely to be approximately correct. But there does not seem to be any substantial reason for hoping that the total native labour force available for employment in the labour

districts of the Transvaal, when the industrial demands of other parts of South Africa have been met, will exceed the number available in September, 1904, *i.e.*, approximately 135,000. In the six months following that date, owing to the great depression in other industrial centres and to the cessation of public and private works in South Africa generally the native labour force available for employment in the labour districts of the Transvaal grew very rapidly, until it reached 185,000 in last April, or about 50,000 in excess of the normal figure. But as activity revives in other parts of South Africa, this supernumerary labour force will naturally be drawn off from the labour districts of the Transvaal, seeing that local employment always has a first call on native labour, if the wages are at all equal, and seeing that the wages paid for industrial native labour in other parts of South Africa are, as a matter of fact, equal to those paid in the Transvaal. I am not now speaking of the demands of agriculture, which I am leaving on one side altogether, but of the demand for labour on docks, railways, and in domestic and other employment in the towns. All these occupations absorb a large quantity of native labour in the coastal and inland towns of South Africa, whenever trade and business are active, as they were in the two years following the war.

As soon as a period of activity recurs, therefore, we cannot reasonably reckon more than 130,000 to 140,000 as the number of native labourers available for service in the labour districts of the Transvaal. As a matter of fact, the period of greatest stagnation appears to have been reached last April. Since that time there has been a certain revival of activity in other parts of South Africa, with the result that the number of native labourers at work in the Transvaal labour districts has diminished, though it has by no means yet fallen to the point where it stood in 1903 and 1904.

IV.

We may now consider the following figures, which give the labour employed in labour districts for the Transvaal; (*a*) by members of the Association, (*b*) by outside mines and works, (*c*) by other employers, at the three periods September, 1904, April, 1905, and September, 1905 :—

——	September, 1904.	April, 1905.	September, 1905.
Members of Witwatersrand Native Labour Association.	68,545	96,214	85,634
Outside mines and works ..	6,627	14,647	12,016
Other employers	60,782	74,820	79,411
	135,954	185,681	177,061

If the conclusions above stated (in paragraph III.) be admitted, we must take September, 1904, at a normal period, as regards the *total* number of native labourers available for employment in labour districts. At any rate it is a number to which we must expect to return in the case of any revival of activity through South Africa generally. Admitting this, we have to consider the probable way in which this total labour force for labour districts would be divided between the mines and other employers. It is clear that the demands of other employers in labour districts have very largely increased in the past year, and are still increasing. If it be a fact, as everything seems to show, that other employers have the first call on the labour available in labour districts, owing to the high wages that they pay, and the generally easier and more attractive nature of the work, it follows that whatever diminution there may be in the total labour force available for labour districts will fall almost exclusively on the mines. If we assume that owing to a revival of activity throughout South Africa, the native labour force available for labour districts falls to its normal figure, *i.e.*, that of September, 1904, and at the same time that the demand of other employers in labour districts remain even what they are at present, without any increase, we shall have the following result. The total native labour force available in labour districts will be 135,954, the figure of September, 1904. The demands of other employers in labour districts will be 79,411, which was the number employed by them in September, 1905. Judging by

analogy these demands are likely to be greater, but we will assume that they remain at their present figure. This will leave a balance of 56,543 available for mines and works in the labour districts. This number, again, will have to be divided between members of the Association and outside mines and works. The number employed by outside mines and works in September, 1905, was 12,016; and if we assume that these outside mines and works retain their labourers, this would leave 44,527 natives only for employment by members of the Association. Adding the number of contractors' natives employed by members of the Association, which is not included in the above calculations, and which has varied in the past two years from about 5,000 to 6,000, we should get a round total of 50,000 natives available for the members of the Association. As the present strength of native labour employed by members of the Association is 90,000, this would mean that we might have to face a possible decrease of 40,000 before the normal position of affairs was reached. The decrease would, of course, in any case be gradual, and its rate would be determined mainly by the activity of business throughout South Africa generally, and the consequent rise of the demand for industrial labour in other parts of the country to the same figure as in 1903 and 1904.

As a matter of fact, however, the above calculation is likely to be modified in our favour by three considerations:—

1. A part of the loss may fall on outside mines and works. As has been seen, the shrinkage of the last few months has told upon these even more heavily than upon members of the Association. Assuming that they bear their proportion of the anticipated shrinkage, this would give about 5,000 more natives to members of the Association, when the normal state of affairs is reached, *i.e.*, a total of 55,000 instead of 50,000, including contractors' natives.

   But it must be remembered that although certain outside mines and works will bear their share, and perhaps more than their share, of the shrinkage, as compared with members of the Association, other outside mines and works will not bear any part of the shrinkage at all, owing to their paying considerably higher wages, *e.g.*, the Premier Diamond Mine. Moreover, this mine, and perhaps one or two other employers included under outside mines and works, will certainly largely increase their demands in the near future. This is likely to counterbalance the benefit obtained from the shrinkage falling partly on outside mines and works, instead of wholly upon members of the Association.

2. The Government of Portuguese East Africa, owing to the abuses which prevailed before the war, only allows the recruiting of natives in its terriory for service outside, on the fulfilment of certain conditions as to depôts, guarantee of recruiters and other matters. Owing to the great expense involved and the large staff required to carry out these conditions it is practically out of the question for private employers to fulfil them. In consequence, no licences to recruit on Portuguese territory have been granted to private employers for several years. As long as this attitude of the Portuguese Government lasts, this important source of supply is, of course, guarded to a great extent from that form of shrinkage which is caused by attraction of natives to other employment. The considerations above-mentioned, therefore, would not apply to this particular class of native labour, except in so far as other employers may be able to divert it from the mines, after discharge.

3. A similar state of things prevails in the case of natives from the various Central African districts. These natives, like the Portuguese natives, are brought into the country under conditions which are regulated by agreement with the Governments under which they live. Private employers are practically excluded by the nature of these conditions from recruiting in the districts in question. These natives, therefore, like the Portuguese natives, are not subject to a shrinkage in number through the attraction of other employment. As against this, however, there is a possibility that it may be necessary to close these

sources of supply altogether, unless the high death-rate amongst Central African natives, which appears to be caused either through their comparative want of stamina or by the change of climate, and which, so far, all precautions have proved ineffectual to check, can be reduced in the near future.

To sum up, the following conclusions may be drawn from the facts stated above:—

(*a.*) The normal number of natives available for employment in the labour districts of the Transvaal is between 130,000 and 140,000. This number is not likely to be exceeded when trade and business are active in other parts of the Sub-Continent.

(*b.*) The number of natives at present employed in the labour districts of the Transvaal is some 40,000 in excess of the normal figure. It is not unlikely, therefore, that it will decrease to that extent within a comparatively short time.

(*c.*) The proportion of natives available for employment within labour districts which is absorbed by other employment than mines and works, has been steadily increasing for a long time past, and at present stands at approximately 79,000.

(*d.*) The anticipated shrinkage in the total number of natives employed in labour districts is likely to fall on mines and works alone, seeing that a higher rate of wages is to be obtained in other employment, which, accordingly have first call on whatever labour is available.

(*e.*) Even assuming, therefore, that the demands of other employers within labour districts do not increase, mines and works may have to face a shrinkage of approximately 40,000 in the number of labourers employed. This shrinkage may be divided between members of the Association and outside mines and works. But as the total number employed by outside mines and works does not at the present moment exceed 12,000, and as a large proportion of this number is in receipt of higher wages than are paid by members of the Association generally, the greater part of the shrinkage, if and when it occurs, must fall upon members of the Association.

(*f.*) The last conclusion (*e*) may be modified by the fact that the Association had a practical advantage in the recruitment of natives from Portuguese East Africa and from Central Africa, owing to the conditions imposed on recruiting by the Governments of these territories. The shrinkage, therefore, may be confined to the withdrawal from mines and works of all natives other than those coming from the territories in question. This, however, will only be the case as long as the present conditions are maintained. Moreover, the Central African sources may be closed altogether on account of the high mortality amongst the Central African natives.

There seems no way of avoiding the above conclusions unless the mining industry is prepared to enter upon a ruinous competition; (*a*) with other employers in labour districts; (*b*) with employers in other parts of South Africa, by raising wages against them. Moreover, it is not likely that this would be permanently effective, as other employers would raise wages in their turn. They can afford to do this indefinitely, inasmuch as they can put up the prices which they charge to cover the increased cost of labour, whereas the mining industry cannot put up the price of gold. That this would be the result of the raising of wages on the mines may fairly be deduced from what has happened since the war. The raising of wages on the mines has been accompanied by a simultaneous rise in native wages all round, both in labour districts and in other parts of South Africa. The competition would only be checked by native labour becoming so expensive that trade and industry generally were checked.

This, of course, would limit the field of outside employment, and would make a greater number of labourers available for the mines. But it is a result which is hardly to be desired in the interests of the country as a whole, any more than in that of the mines themselves.

V.

We may now examine in detail the variation in the number of natives employed in labour districts according to the sources from which they are drawn, distinguishing between those employed on mines and works, and those in the service of other employers. Three periods have been taken: September, 1904 (when the total supply stood approximately at the normal figure), April, 1905 (when the total supply reached its highest point, owing to the decrease in the demand for labour in other parts of South Africa, and partly, perhaps, owing to the bad harvests), and, September, 1905.

Cape Colony.—The total number of labourers from Cape Colony employed in Transvaal labour districts at the three periods mentioned was as follows:—

September, 1904.	April, 1905.	September, 1905.
19,568	33,783	26,472

This number was divided as follows:—

——	September, 1904.	April, 1905.	September, 1905.
Mines and works	6,638	17,530	9,118
Other employment	12,930	16,253	17,354

It will be seen that the number of Cape Colony natives employed on the mines increased by 10,892 between September, 1904, and April, 1905, and then decreased by 8,412 between April, 1905, and September, 1905. The figure of September, 1905, however, is still higher by 2,480 than that of September, 1904.

The number of Cape Colony natives in other employ increased by 3,323 between September, 1904, and April, 1905. Between April, 1905, and September, 1905, there was a further increase of 1,101. This coincided, it will be remembered, with a decrease of over 8,000 in the number of Cape Colony natives employed on the mines and with a general decrease in the total number of Cape Colony natives employed in labour districts. The number of Cape Colony natives in other employ in labour districts was, in September, 1905, 4,424 greater than it was in September, 1904. If the total number of Cape Colony natives available for labour districts be supposed to be the figure of September, 1904, *i.e.*, 19,568, and if the total number absorbed by other employers be supposed to be the figure of September, 1905, *i.e.*, 17,354, it will be seen that only about 2,000 Cape Colony natives are left over for mines and works.

Basutoland and Orange River Colony.—The total number of these natives employed in Transvaal labour districts for the three periods was as follows:—

September, 1904.	April, 1905.	September, 1905.
9,519	13,685	12,508

They were divided as follows:—

——	September, 1904.	April, 1905.	September, 1905.
Mines and works	2,090	4,985	2,690
Other employment	7,429	8,701	9,818

It will be seen that the number of these natives employed on mines and works increased by 2,895 between September, 1904, and April, 1905, and diminished by

2,295 between April, 1905, and September, 1905. The number employed in September, 1905, was 600 greater than that employed in September, 1904. The number in the service of other employers in labour districts increased by 1,272 between September, 1904, and April, 1905, and increased again by 1,117 between April, 1905, and September, 1905. If the total number of these natives available for labour districts be taken at the figure of September, 1904, *i.e.*, 9,519, and the total number required by other employers in labour districts be taken at the figure of September, 1905, *i.e.*, 9,818, it will be seen that not only are no natives at all of this class left for mines and works, but that there is a deficiency of 300 in the number required to meet the demands of other employers, which must be made up from other sources, presumably at the expense of mines and works.

Natal and Zululand.—The total number of natives from these sources employed in labour districts was as follows:—

September, 1904.	April, 1905.	September, 1905.
14,924	20,052	19,916

This was divided as follows:—

——	September, 1904.	April, 1905.	September, 1905.
Mines and works	2,367	3,848	3,375
Other employment	12,557	16,204	56,541

It will be seen that the number of these natives employed on mines and works increased by 1,481 between September, 1904, and April, 1905, and decreased by 473 between April, 1905, and September, 1905. The number employed at September, 1905, was 1,008 greater than that employed in September, 1904. The number in the service of other employers in labour districts increased by 3,647 between September, 1904, and April, 1905, and increased again by 337 between April, 1905, and September, 1905. If the total number of these natives available for labour districts be taken at the figure of September, 1904, *i.e.*, 14,924, and the total required by other employers in the labour districts be taken at the figure of September, 1905, *i.e.*, 16,541, it will be seen that not only are none of these natives left for employment on mines and works, but that there is a deficiency of 1,500 in the number required to meet the demands of other employers, which again has to be made up from other sources at the expense of mines and works.

Transvaal.—The total number of Transvaal natives employed in labour districts for the three periods was as follows:—

September, 1904.	April, 1905.	September, 1905.
27,928	41,353	36,002

This was divided as follows:—

——	September, 1904.	April, 1905.	September, 1905.
Mines and Works	9,167	17,327	10,526
Other employment	18,761	24,026	25,476

It will be seen that the number of Transvaal natives employed on mines and works increased by 8,160 between September, 1904, and April, 1905, and diminished by 6,801 between April, 1905, and September, 1905. The number employed in September, 1905, was 1,359 greater than the number employed in September,

1904. The number of Transvaal natives in the service of other employers in labour districts increased by 5,265 between September, 1904, and April, 1905, and increased again by 1,450 between April, 1905, and September, 1905. If the total number of Transvaal natives available for labour districts be taken at the figure of September, 1904, *i.e.*, 27,928, and if the number required by other employers in labour districts be taken at the figure of September, 1905, *i.e.*, 25,476, it will be seen that a balance of 2,500 only remains available for mines and works.

Rhodesia.—The total number of natives from this source employed at the three periods was as follows:—

September, 1904.	April, 1905.	September, 1905.
2,084	4,441	5,994

This was divided as follows:—

——	September, 1904.	April, 1905.	September, 1905.
Mines and works	1,426	3,668	5,172
Other employment	658	773	822

It will be seen that the number of these natives employed on mines and works increased by 2,242 between September, 1904, and April, 1905, and increased again by 1,504 between April, 1905, and September, 1905. The number employed at September, 1905, was 3,746 greater than the number employed in September, 1904. The number of these natives in the service of other employers in labour districts increased by 115 between September, 1904, and April, 1905, and increased again by 49 between April, 1905, and September, 1905. This is one of the sources of labour not subject to the ordinary rules of competition, being practically closed to recruiting except on behalf of the mining industry. This accounts for the increase in the number of natives from this source employed on mines and works being constant during the period, and being unaccompanied by any corresponding increase in the number serving other employers within labour districts.

Portuguese East Africa.—The number of natives from this source employed at the three periods was as follows:—

September, 1904.	April, 1905.	September, 1905.
53,263	59,995	64,369

This was divided as follows:—

——	September, 1904.	April, 1905.	September, 1905.
Mines and works	47,246	54,172	58,288
Other employment	6,017	5,823	6,081

It will be seen that the number of East Coast natives employed by mines and works increased by 6,926 between September, 1904, and April, 1905, and increased again by 4,166 between April, 1905, and September, 1905. The number employed at September, 1905, was 11,042 greater than that employed at September, 1904. The number of East Coast natives in the service of other employers in labour districts diminished by 194 between September, 1904, and April, 1905, and increased by 258 between April, 1905, and September, 1905.

This district also, for the reasons stated above, is not subject to the usual effects of competition in recruiting under present circumstances. The large increase in the number of these natives at work between September, 1904, and September, 1905, is probably to be explained as follows:—During the winter months of 1903, the

recruiting system in Portuguese East Africa was re-organised, and exceptionally large numbers of natives were sent forward, with the result that the country was emptied, and that the numbers coming forward during the winter months of 1904, before the natives recruited in 1903 had time to return home and become available for service again, was unusually small. At the same time the number of natives completing their contracts and taking their discharge was large during the winter of 1904. The number left on the fields, therefore, in September, 1904, was lower than the average. By counter effect the number on the fields in September, 1905, is probably a little higher than the average, and may be expected to diminish. The full number of the natives normally available is probably not in excess of 60,000, including those in the service of other employers, and the number available for mines and works, under present conditions may be expected to vary from 48,000 to 58,000; a high total, like that at present on the fields, being followed by a low one next year, and so alternately.

N.B.—In the above numbers of East Coast natives those coming from north of latitude 22° are not included. These are included amongst Central Africans. It is unnecessary to give here the figures of this class of native in detail, as there are practically none of them in the service of other employers. The total number of Central Africans employed on the fields, including British Central Africans and Northern Portuguese boys together was 5,857 in September, 1905, as against 4,357 in September, 1904.

It will be noticed that there is the same tendency running through the recent history of all the classes of labour which are subject to free competition, *i.e.*, labour coming from the Cape Colony, Natal, Zululand, Basutoland, Orange River Colony, and Transvaal. That tendency is as follows:—From September, 1904, up to April, of this year there was a great increase in the number of labourers in all these classes. This increase coincided with the general depression in trade and industry in other parts of South Africa. The increased numbers were divided between mines and works and other employers in labour districts. Since April, 1905, the number of labourers in all these classes has diminished, but the loss has fallen entirely on mines and works. Other employers in labour districts have apparently increased their demands for labour from these classes, and, owing to the higher wages paid, have been able to satisfy them.

(1.) The following tables are attached:—

Statement of natives employed in Transvaal labour districts monthly, from July, 1904, to September, 1905, showing (*a*) natives employed by members of the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association; (*b*) natives employed by other mines and works; and (*c*) natives employed by other employers.

2. Statement of the natives employed in labour districts of the Transvaal from July, 1904, to September, 1905, allowing the natives employed, (*a*) by members of the Association; (*b*) by outside mines and works; and (*c*) by other employers, divided according to the country of origin of the natives.

F. Perry.

Johannesburg,
November 21, 1905.

No. 41.

Governor The EARL OF SELBORNE to The EARL OF ELGIN.

(Received January 20, 1906.)

(Extract.)

Governor's Office, Johannesburg, December 30, 1905.

I have the honour to inform you that the principal subject of political interest

during the past fortnight has, as was to be expected, been the decision of His Majesty's Government to prevent, as far as possible, the further importation of Chinese labourers, and the publication of your telegram* to me announcing this decision.

I have already informed you by telegraph† that I am advised by the Attorney-General that the Lieutenant-Governor has no power to revoke licences already issued, and that, at the most, he can only prohibit the issue of fresh licences. If the labourers, for whose importation licences are already held by the various mining companies, are gradually brought into the Colony, in accordance with the terms of those licences, the gold mining industry will, I am informed, have sufficient labour to satisfy its present requirements, and to tide over the period which must elapse before the first meeting of a Representative Transvaal Legislature. I understand that the last of these labourers will, in the ordinary course, arrive in South Africa about October next.

The enclosed report§ of the monthly address of the Chairman of the Chamber of Mines is interesting, as showing the efficacy of the steps which have been taken, under the Foreign Labour Importation Amendment Ordinance, in checking lawless acts committed by isolated bands of Chinese labourers.

No. 42.

THE EARL OF ELGIN to GOVERNOR THE EARL OF SELBORNE.

MY LORD, Downing Street, January 20, 1906.

IT would appear from the report printed at page 63 of the Parliamentary Paper [Cd. 2401] that the numbers of natives on the Witwatersrand mines are usually at the lowest ebb in May, June, and July, and that in August, September, October, and November a considerable rise occurs.

2. I observe, however, that the numbers this year have been high in the period April to July, but have diminished very considerably in October and November. I shall be glad if you will obtain a report on this matter from the Native Affairs Department.

3. The report should deal with the effect on the labour supply of the rule recently introduced to recruit in certain parts of South Africa only for underground work and for a longer period.

I have, &c.,
ELGIN.

No. 43.

THE EARL OF ELGIN to GOVERNOR SIR W. F. HELY-HUTCHINSON (CAPE).

SIR, Downing Street, January 20, 1906.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your telegram, No. 1, of the 12th of January,‡ transmitting a resolution passed at a meeting of members of the Africander Bond and others held at Cape Town on the 9th of January, stating that the policy of His Majesty's Government already outlined with regard to Chinese labour will in no way lead to dissatisfaction on the part of the Africander people.

I have, &c.,
ELGIN.

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* No. 4 in [Cd. 2788]. † No. 9 in [Cd. 2788]. ‡ No. 34. § Not printed.

No. 44.

GOVERNOR THE EARL OF SELBORNE to THE EARL OF ELGIN.

(Received 7.50 a.m., January 21, 1906.)

TELEGRAM.

January 20. No. 3. In reply to your telegram, No. 1, of the 19th January;* a full report goes to you by this mail.

There is no legal difficulty about your suggestion, as Clause 14 of the contract provides that the labourer may at any time terminate his contract on tendering to the employer the expenses incurred in importing him together with sum sufficient for his repatriation. If the Government contributed the amount which the coolie himself was unable to provide for these purposes, the employer could not refuse to accept it, and no new regulation is thus required.

Practical difficulties, however, present a grave obstacle. The money required from Government funds would have to be voted by the Legislative Assembly, and it is most unlikely that the Assembly would vote it. The expenditure would not be large if only those coolies were repatriated who desired to return to China and remain there, but it would be serious if every coolie who wanted a short holiday could terminate his contract at Government expense, and afterwards engage again and return to the Rand in a fresh shipload. This is a real danger. Coolies repatriated for one cause or another are constantly trying to re-engage and return, and some have succeeded. It is very difficult to prevent this, and the elected representatives are well aware of the fact.

Further, the Assembly would probably take the view that to allow a coolie dissatisfied with the conditions of labour to terminate his contract at the public expense would be to admit a very dangerous principle. The question would be asked why the principle should not equally apply to Portuguese natives, and, indeed, to many other persons under contract to remain in the Transvaal.

Jamieson tells me 198 coolies have so far purchased their discharge, and that in the case where coolies have not had the necessary funds his fellow-labourers have made it up by voluntary contributions. No case has occurred of coolies without sufficient funds applying for repatriation. Generally speaking Jamieson thinks 80 per cent. of coolies will be ready to renew their contracts at the end of three years.

No. 45.

GOVERNOR THE EARL OF SELBORNE to THE EARL OF ELGIN.

(Received 8 p.m., January 23, 1906.)

TELEGRAM.

January 23. No. 1. Referring to my telegram of 20th January, No. 3,* I have now procured some important additional figures from China. The exact position is as follows: The total number of Chinese labourers who have been repatriated for one cause or another since importation of Chinese began is 1,956. Of these 1,233 have tried to re-engage at Chinwangtao, and have been prevented there. 222 have tried to re-engage at Chefoo, and have been prevented there. Of the balance of 500 a number estimated at 100 have succeeded in making their way back to the Rand. This leaves only 400 unaccounted for, and these 400 include all who may have died after repatriation or have been in such a state of health as to make it useless for them to attempt to re-engage. Even allowing for some of the repatriated labourers having made more than one attempt to re-engage, and thus being reckoned more than once each in the above figures, it is clear that the majority of the labourers who have been repatriated to China have tried to make their way back again to the Transvaal.

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* No. 38. † No. 44.

No. 46.

GOVERNOR THE EARL OF SELBORNE to THE EARL OF ELGIN.

(Received 2.20 p.m., January 24, 1906.)

TELEGRAM.

January 24. No. 1. Referring to my telegram, 21st December, No. 4,* official returns of white workmen in mines of Witwatersrand district in month of December show increase of 83.

No. 47.

GOVERNOR THE EARL OF SELBORNE to THE EARL OF ELGIN.

(Received 2.57 p.m., January 24, 1906.)

TELEGRAM.

January 24. No. 2. Referring to my telegram 21st December, No. 3,† total number of persons employed in gold mines of whole Transvaal on 31st December: white 18,159; coloured 93,831; Chinese 47,267.

No. 48.

GOVERNOR THE EARL OF SELBORNE to THE EARL OF ELGIN.

(Received 10.15 p.m., January 24, 1906.)

TELEGRAM.

[*See No.* 61.]

January 24. No. 3. Your telegram of 22nd January, No. 2.‡ May I point out that my proposal in no degree prejudges question of continuation of importation of Chinese coolies. If elected Legislature decided against it probationers would be recalled and no expense would fall on His Majesty's Government. If it decides in favour and no probationers have been sent to China to be trained many months will have been lost. At present Inspectors are largely composed of military officers whom Army Council might recall at any time. Result might be most prejudicial to whole administration of Ordinance, and especially to the coolies, and all our efforts to provide at each mine a friend and protector who knows their language and is unconnected with mining companies will have been brought to naught. I cannot think that this is a risk we ought to run, considering that the proposal as I have said in no degree prejudges question. The expense would be borne by the Transvaal Government and not by the Chamber of Mines, so that body could extract no argument out of the dispatch of these probationers. A number of coolies are just arriving, or will shortly arrive, whose contracts will have three years to run. It will therefore in any case be necessary to have an adequate staff of Inspectors for the protection of these coolies.

No. 49.

GOVERNOR THE EARL OF SELBORNE to THE EARL OF ELGIN.

(Received 4.20 p.m., January 25, 1906.)

TELEGRAM.

January 25. No. 1. Your telegram, 6th January, No. 3.§ The following is the text of a new regulation which is about to be published on the subject of the engagement in every compound of a white official thoroughly conversant with the Chinese language, which, in my opinion, is sufficient to meet the case:—

Begins: Whenever the Superintendent, after due and careful inquiry, is satisfied that the control over labourers on a mine is inefficient and that inefficiency is due to the absence of a European official conversant with the language of the labourers employed on such mine, he may require the employer, in writing, within a reasonable time to be agreed between them,

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* No. 18. † No. 17. ‡ No. 1675. § No. 30.

or, in the absence of such agreement, to be fixed by the Lieutenant-Governor, to engage the services of such a European official. Any employer refusing or neglecting to comply with such request within the period agreed on or fixed by the Lieutenant-Governor shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding ten pounds for every day he is in default. *Ends.*

No. 50.

Governor the EARL OF SELBORNE to The EARL OF ELGIN.

(Received January 27, 1906.)

My Lord, Governor's Office, Johannesburg, January 4, 1906.

With reference to my despatch of the 4th December,* I have the honour to enclose, for your information, a statement for the month of November, 1905, of convictions and sentences on Chinese labourers.

I have, &c.,
SELBORNE,
Governor.

Enclosure in No. 50.

Convictions and Sentences on Chinese Labourers, November, 1905.

Number.	Sentence.	Remarks.
	Crime—Assault.	
4	10*s.* or seven days' hard labour	Sentence served.
1	£1 or seven days' hard labour	Sentence served.
1	£1 or 14 days' hard labour ...	Fine paid.
10	£2 or 14 days' hard labour ...	In one case fine paid.
1	14 days and 10 lashes	Sentence served.
1	Three weeks	Sentence served.
1	£2 or one month	Sentence served.
3	£4 or one month	Sentence served.
1	£5 or one month	Sentence served.
4	One month	Sentence served.
2	£5 or six weeks	Sentence served.
3	Six weeks	Sentence served.
4		
2	Two months and 10 lashes ...	Sentence served.
8	Three months	Sentence served.
2	Three months and seven lashes	Sentence served.
48		
	Crime—Crime with Intent.	
1	£10 or three months' hard labour.	Sentence served.
1	Six months and 15 lashes ...	Sentence served.
2		

* No. 19.

Number.	Sentence.	Remarks.
	CRIME—THEFT.	
2	£2 or 14 days' hard labour ...	Sentence served.
1	£4 or one month's hard labour	Sentence served.
1	£10 or six weeks' hard labour	Sentence served.
1	£10 or two months' hard labour	Sentence served.
2	Three months' hard labour ...	Sentence served.
1	Six months' hard labour ..	Sentence served.
8		
	CRIME—FORGERY AND FRAUD.	
1	£1 or seven days' hard labour	Fine paid.
6	£2 or 14 days' hard labour ...	In three cases fine paid.
3	£1 or 14 days' hard labour ...	Fine paid.
7	£3 or 14 days' hard labour ...	Sentence served.
8	£3 or 21 days' hard labour ...	In five cases fine paid.
4	£2 or one month's hard labour	Sentence served.
4	£3 or one month's hard labour	Sentence served.
12	£4 or one month's hard labour	Sentence served.
3	£5 or one month's hard labour	Sentence served.
4	One month's hard labour ...	Sentence served.
1	£15 or three months	Sentence served.
1	Three months	Sentence served.
1	Six months	Sentence served.
1	Four months	Sentence served.
56		
	CRIME—BEING IN POSSESSION OF DANGEROUS WEAPONS: CONTRAVENTION REGULATION 1, SECTION 9, ORDINANCE 20, 1905.	
1	One month	Sentence served.
1	Six weeks	Sentence served.
1	£4 or one month's hard labour	Sentence served.
1	£15 or three months' hard labour.	Sentence served.
4		
	CRIME—REFUSAL TO WORK: CONTRAVENTION SECTION 31, SUB-SECTION 11, ORDINANCE 17, 1904.	
1	2*s.* or one day	Fine paid.
1	10*s.* or three days	Fine paid.
2	Carried forward.	

Number.	Sentence.	Remarks.
2	Brought forward.	
1	£1 or 14 days	Fine paid.
4	£2 or 14 days	Sentence served.
6	£3 or 14 days	Sentence served.
1	£3 or 21 days	Sentence served.
10	2s. or one day	Fine paid.
19	5s. fine	Fine paid.
1	£4 or 14 days	Sentence served.
25	£5 or one month	Sentence served.
5	£7 or six weeks	Sentence served.
1	£6 or six weeks	Sentence served.
1	£12 or six weeks	Sentence served.
4	£15 or six weeks	Sentence served.
9	£10 or two months	Sentence served.
2	£25 or two months	Sentence served.
91		

CRIME—OPIUM: BEING IN ILLEGAL POSSESSION OF OPIUM: SECTION 31, SUB-SECTION 15, ORDINANCE 27, 1905.

1	£1 or 14 days	Fine paid.
2	21 days	Sentence served.
3	£1 fine	Paid.
2	£2 fine	Paid.
2	One month	Sentence served.
1	£3 or one month	Sentence served.
3	£4 or one month	Sentence served.
7	£5 or one month	Sentence served.
3	£5 or six weeks	Sentence served.
1	£7 or six weeks	Sentence served.
2	Two months	Sentence served.
1	£10 or three months	Sentence served.
28		

CRIME—MINING REGULATIONS: CONTRAVENTION MINING REGULATIONS. SECTION 11, ORDINANCE 54, 1903.

2	One month's hard labour.	
1	Two months' hard labour.	
3		

Number.	Sentence.	Remarks.
	CRIME—CONTRAVENTION SECTION 31, SUB-SECTION 10, ORDINANCE 17, 1904.	
1	£1 or seven days	Sentence served.
1	£4 or one month	Sentence served.
2		
	CRIME—PUBLIC VIOLENCE.	
4	Three months.	
10	Six months.	
14		
	CRIME—HOUSEBREAKING AND THEFT.	
2	Three months' hard labour.	
1	Six months' hard labour.	
1	Nine months and 10 lashes.	
5	12 months' hard labour.	
3	12 months and 15 lashes.	
12		
	CRIME—ABSENCE WITHOUT PERMIT: CONTRAVENTION SECTION 31, SUB-SECTION 11, ORDINANCE 17, 1904.	
1	5*s.* or seven days	Sentence served.
7	10*s.* fine	Fine paid.
3	10*s.* or 14 days	Sentence served.
3	£1 or 14 days	Sentence served.
14	£1 or seven days	Sentence served.
20	£2 or 14 days	Sentence served.
45	£3 or 21 days	Sentence served.
3	£2 or one month	Sentence served.
1	£3 or one month	Sentence served.
25	£4 or one month	Sentence served.
83	£10 or one month	Sentence served.
205		
	CRIME—UNLAWFUL ABSENCE: CONTRAVENTION SECTION 31, SUB-SECTION 11, ORDINANCE 17, 1904.	
23	5*s.* fine	Fine paid.
10	10*s.* fine	Fine paid.
20	5*s.* or seven days	Sentence served.
53	Carried forward.	

Number.	Sentence.	Remarks.
53	Brought forward.	
3	10*s.* or seven days	Sentence served.
21	£1 or seven days	Sentence served.
3	10*s.* or 14 days	Sentence served.
31	£2 or 14 days	Sentence served.
111		

CRIME—DESERTION: CONTRAVENTION SECTION 31, SUB-SECTION 11, ORDINANCE 17, 1904.

4	2*s.* or one day	Fine paid.
10	10*s.* or seven days	Fine paid.
15	£1 or seven days	In 12 cases fine paid.
1	£1 fine	Fine paid.
8	£1 or 10 days	Fine paid.
28	£1 or 14 days	In eight cases fine paid.
1	5*s.* or seven days	Sentence served.
1	10*s.* or 14 days	Sentence served.
29	£2 or 14 days	In three cases fine paid.
1	£4 or 14 days	Sentence served.
43	£3 or 14 days	Sentence served.
2	£1 or 21 days	Sentence served.
1	£2 or 21 days	Fine paid.
1	£4 or 21 days	Sentence served.
6	£1 or one month	Sentence served.
37	£2 or one month	In one case fine paid.
1	50*s.* or one month	Sentence served.
3	£3 or one month	Sentence served.
13	£4 or one month	Sentence served.
4	£8 or one month	Sentence served.
97	£5 or one month	Sentence served.
1	£3 or six weeks	Sentence served.
3	£4 or six weeks	Sentence served.
1	£5 or six weeks	Sentence served.
2	£6 or six weeks	Sentence served.
2	£10 or six weeks	Sentence served.
1	£1 or two months	Sentence served.
8	£5 or two months	Sentence served.
324	Carried forward.	

Number.	Sentence.	Remarks.
324	Brought forward.	
1	£4 or two months	Sentence served.
21	£10 or two months	Sentence served.
1	£12 or two months	Sentence served.
5	£15 or two months	Sentence served.
1	£2 or two months	Sentence served.
46	£2 or two months	Sentence served.
399		

No. 51.

GOVERNOR THE EARL OF SELBORNE to THE EARL OF ELGIN.

(Received January 27, 1906.)

MY LORD, Governor's Office, Johannesburg, January 6, 1906.

WITH reference to my telegram of the 21st December, No. 4,* I have the honour to inform you that the decrease of 188 in the number of white workmen in mines of the Witwatersrand District during the month of November is mainly due to the discharge of 161 men by the New Kleinfontein Gold Mining Company.

These men were not employed in ordinary mining work but in new construction. The Company had let out on contract the construction of certain surface works—head-gear, boiler houses, &c.—and when the work was completed, the Contractor withdrew his men, 150 in all. The remaining 11 men were Company's employees who had been engaged in shaft-sinking (development work) but were discharged on account of the shortage of the native labour required to keep this work going. The number of miners usually employed on this mine remains the same. It is quite possible that the construction men referred to will continue in the employment of the Contractor.

I have, &c.,
SELBORNE,
Governor.

No. 52.

GOVERNOR THE EARL OF SELBORNE to THE EARL OF ELGIN.

(Received January 27, 1906.)

MY LORD, The Governor's Office, Johannesburg, January 6, 1906.

WITH reference to my telegram, No. 1, of the 6th January,† I have the honour to transmit to you the accompanying copies of affidavits made by Mr. A. Bassett Watts, Mr. F. G. A. Roberts, and Mr. Henry Hay, on the subject of Mr. Boland's letter, which appeared in the "Morning Leader" of the 6th September, 1905, making certain allegations, regarding the flogging of Chinese labourers on the Witwatersrand Deep Mine, Limited.

I have, &c.,
SELBORNE,
Governor.

* No. 18. † No. 31.

Enclosure 1 in No. 52.

THE WITWATERSRAND DEEP, LIMITED.

AFFIDAVIT BY A. B. WATTS.

VAN HULSTEYN, FELTHAM, AND FRY,
Solicitors,
Johannesburg, Transvaal.

AFFIDAVIT.

I, the undersigned, Arnold Bassett Watts, make oath and say:—

1. I am the Compound Manager of the Witwatersrand Deep, Limited, and have been such since the time that Chinese labourers were brought on to the said mine.

2. My attention has been called to a letter, published over the name of one F. C. Boland, appearing in the "Morning Leader" newspaper of September the 6th, 1905, in which are certain allegations regarding the flogging of Chinese labourers on the Witwatersrand Deep, Limited, Mine.

3. I say that, in so far as the period during which I was on the property is concerned, the statements regarding the Witwatersrand Deep, Limited,, contained in the said letter of the said F. C. Boland are incorrect and untrue.

A. BASSETT WATTS.

Sworn at Johannesburg, Transvaal, on this the 20th day of December, 1905.

Before me:
WM. MOSES,
Justice of the Peace.

Enclosure 2 in No. 52.

THE WITWATERSRAND DEEP, LIMITED

AFFIDAVIT BY F. G. A. ROBERTS.

VAN HULSTEYN, FELTHAM, AND FRY,
Solicitors,
Johannesburg, Transvaal.

AFFIDAVIT.

I, the undersigned, F. G. A. Roberts, make oath and say:—

1. From the 30th April, 1905, to the 4th November, 1905, I acted as Manager of the Witwatersrand Deep, Limited, in the place of Mr. Henry Hay, who was away on leave.

2. My attention has been called to a letter, published over the name of one F. C. Boland, appearing in the "Morning Leader" newspaper of September the 6th, 1905, in which are certain allegations regarding the flogging of Chinese labourers on the Witwatersrand Deep, Limited, Mine.

3. I say that, in so far as the period during which I was on the property is concerned, the statements regarding the Witwatersrand Deep, Limited, contained in the said letter of the said F. C. Boland are incorrect and untrue.

FRANK G. A. ROBERTS.

Sworn at Johannesburg, Transvaal, on this the 20th day of December, 1905.

Before me:
J. F. S. MAYBERY,
Justice of the Peace.

Enclosure 3 in No. 52.

THE WITWATERSRAND DEEP, LIMITED.

AFFIDAVIT BY HENRY HAY.

VAN HULSTEYN, FELTHAM, AND FRY,
Solicitors,
Johannesburg, Transvaal.

AFFIDAVIT.

I, the undersigned, Henry Hay, make oath and say:—

1. I am the Manager of the Witwatersrand Deep, Limited, and was such from the time of the arrival of the Chinese labourers on the said mine until the 19th April, 1905, on which date I went away on leave and remained away until the 2nd November, 1905, my place as Manager being taken during my absence by Mr. F. G. A. Roberts.

2. My attention has been called to a letter, published over the name of one F. C. Boland, appearing in the "Morning Leader" newspaper of September the 6th, 1905, in which are certain allegations regarding the flogging of Chinese labourers on the Witwatersrand Deep, Limited, Mine.

3. I say that, in so far as the period during which I was on the property is concerned, the statements regarding the Witwatersrand Deep, Limited, contained in the said letter of the said F. C. Boland are incorrect and untrue.

HENRY HAY.

Sworn at Johannesburg, Transvaal, on this the 19th day of December, 1905.
Before me:

F. A. GILLAM,
Justice of the Peace.

No. 53.

GOVERNOR THE EARL OF SELBORNE to THE EARL OF ELGIN.

(Received January 27, 1906.)

MY LORD, Governor's Office, Johannesburg, January 8, 1906.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your telegram, No. 2, of the 28th December, 1905.*

1. Notices in the Chinese language embodying the principal clauses of the Labour Importation Ordinance, 1904, and the Amending Ordinance, 1905, were given by the Superintendent to Chinese labourers by affixing them to prominent places in the compounds in which they were employed. Mr. Jamieson is satisfied that these notices were perused and taken note of by the labourers. Copies of these notices were sent to the Chinese Consul-General who has not seen fit to make any

* No. 22.

comment upon them, and I think it may therefore be fairly assumed that he has no objection to raise on behalf of his Government to the provisions of the Amending Ordinance embodied in these notices.

2. The Attorney-General adheres to his opinion that the alteration proposed by him in the contracts should be made in the fourth clause, and not in the main clause which refers to the transfer of Chinese labourers from one employer to another with which the Amending Ordinance does not deal. The alterations proposed by the Attorney-General were sent to China on November 2nd, and instructions were at the same time issued for a retranslation of the whole contract as amended. As soon as the translation is completed a copy will be handed to the Chinese Emigration Officers at Chifu and Chinwangtao and the Chinese Government ought shortly to be in possession of the Chinese text. The amendments in English they have ere now received through the same channels.

3. The Amending Ordinance has now been in operation a little over three months and the Superintendent reports to me as follows on the working of it:—

> "I venture unhesitatingly to affirm that the new Ordinance is no longer an experiment nor on its trial; it has, in the course of the two months it has been in operation, already proved itself a conspicuous success, and indicated the prescience of its authors. Testimony in support of this statement will be furnished by Government officials, mine owners, mine managers, and coolies. The lines laid down in my original memo. were sound, and any departure therefrom would not only lead to substantial injustice, in so far as the coolies are concerned, but would seriously imperil Government control over them. My Inspectors now visit their mines regularly and on occasions find no cases to investigate nor complaints to hear. The number of labourers who appeal to me direct is becoming infinitesimal, and of late I may say that in every single case of outrage by the small, but daring, band of criminal outlaws amongst the indentured labourers, have most, if not all, of the guilty individuals implicated been arrested. That certain of these should be unpunished is due to the technicalities of legal procedure, which do not allow a prisoner to incriminate himself. I would again emphasize the fact that to deal successfully with the Chinese one must know the Chinese, and that, as far as may be practicable, one must treat them on lines which they can follow and understand."

4. There have been only two or three cases in which fines have been deducted from wages under the powers given by the Amending Ordinance and there has been no case in which a fine has been imposed on a boss boy or in which a collective fine has been imposed under Section 6 of that Ordinance. I admit that the power given to the Superintendent to impose a collective fine is an exceptional one. It was considered, however, necessary for the proper and efficient control of labourers, but care will be taken only to exercise this power when the Superintendent is satisfied that the non-reporting of an offence committed by labourers in a gang in respect of which the collective fine may be imposed is due to a concerted arrangement among such labourers to conceal the fact of its commission.

5. I would again point out that all sentences passed by the Superintendent or Inspectors are subject to review by the Supreme Court when the sentence exceeds a fine of £20 or imprisonment for six weeks and by the Attorney-General when under these limits.

I have, &c.,
SELBORNE,
Governor.

No. 54.

GOVERNOR THE EARL OF SELBORNE to THE EARL OF ELGIN.

(Received January 27, 1906.)

MY LORD, Governor's Office, Johannesburg, January 8, 1906.

I HAVE the honour to forward, for your information, statements for November,

1905, of territorial analysis of natives holding passports and working in the labour districts of the Transvaal.

I have, &c.,
SELBORNE,
Governor.

Enclosure 1 in No. 54.

Territorial Analysis of Natives holding Passports in Labour Districts.

November 30, 1905.

Territory.	Mines and Works.	Other Employment.	Total.
Basutoland	2,773	6,019	8,792
British Bechuanaland	833	1,296	2,129
British Central Africa	3,165	345	3,510
Cape Colony	7,610	17,155	24,765
Natal and Zululand	3,429	15,829	19,258
Orange River Colony	246	4,245	4,491
East Coast (Portuguese Territory.)	59,308	6,111	68,171
Mozambique (Portuguese Territory.)	1,977		
Quilimane (Portuguese Territory.)	775		
Rhodesia	4,193	901	5,094
Swaziland	1,083	1,464	2,547
Transvaal	9,542	25,018	34,560
Damaraland	599	13	612
Others	170	363	533
	95,703	78,759	174,462

Enclosure 2 in No. 54.

Return of Natives Employed on Mines within Three Mile Radius of Johannesburg.

November 30, 1905.

Bonanza	546
Crown Reef	1,537
Crown Deep	2,905
City and Suburban	2,072
Ferreira	2,045
Ferreira Deep	1,746
Langlaagte Estate	1,852
Langlaagte Deep	1,554
Meyer and Charlton	978
New Goch	1,936
Robinson	1,818
Robinson Deep	2,391
Robinson Central Deep	654
Carried forward	22,034

Brought forward		22,034
Robinson Chlorination Works		14
Salisbury and Jubilee		1,140
Village Main Reef		2,240
Village Deep		1,037
Wolhuter		767
Wemmer		1,282
City Deep		252
		28,766

Enclosure 3 in No. 54.

Natives Employed on Mines and Works in Labour Districts.

November 30, 1905.

Johannesburg:—

City and Suburban	2,072	
Henry Nourse	100	
Jumpers	1,244	
Jumpers Deep	739	
Meyer and Charlton	978	
New Goch	1,936	
New Heriot	900	
Nourse Deep	561	
Treasury	911	
Wolhuter	767	
City Deep	252	
Consolidated Langlaagte	222	
Robinson	1,818	
Robinson Chlorination Works	14	
Bonanza	546	
Langlaagte Estate	1,852	
Crown Deep	2,905	
Crown Reef	1,537	
Langlaagte Deep	1,554	
Robinson Central Deep	654	
Langlaagte Block "B"	4	
Village Deep	1,037	
Village Main Reef	2,240	
Jubilee and Salisbury	1,140	
Robinson Deep	2,391	
Wemmer	1,282	
Ferreira	2,045	
Ferreira Deep	1,746	
Average number of natives employed by contractors	2,874	
		36,321

Germiston:—

May Consolidated	1,249	
Knights Deep	2,074	
Simmer and Jack East	276	
Knights Central	273	
South Rose Deep	650	
Glencairn Main Reef	945	
New Rietfontein Estate	1,461	
Carried forward	6,928	

Brought forward	6,928	
Witwatersrand G. M. Co.	770	
Glen Deep	25	
Simmer and Jack West	250	
Geldenhuis Deep	876	
Geldenhuis Estate	1,341	
Rose Deep	861	
Simmer and Jack Proprietary	410	
Burham G. M. Co.	73	
South Geldenhuis Deep	494	
Rand Victoria	266	
General Electric Power Company	55	
Dynamite Factory	817	
New Primrose	1,245	
Geldenhuis Main Reef	2	
Orion	292	
Premier Brick Company	56	
Rex Brick and Tile	34	
Average number of natives employed by contractors	1,324	
	———	16,119

Krugersdorp:—

Aurora West	55	
Bantjes Consolidated	3	
Consolidated Main Reef	1,929	
Durban Roodepoort	1,076	
Durban Roodepoort Deep	723	
Main Reef West	208	
New Unified	1,174	
Princess Estate	61	
Roodepoort	2	
Roodepoort Central Deep	1,225	
Roodepoort United Main Reef	1,653	
Saxon G. Mines	7	
Vlakfontein	—	
Vogelstruis Consolidated Deep...	244	
Vogelstruis Estate	952	
North Witwatersrand	101	
Zuurbekom Waterworks	38	
Champ d'Or	902	
Freneh Rand	27	
Lancaster	1,064	
Lancaster West	729	
Luipaards Vlei	244	
Midas Deep	2	
New Rip	1	
North Randfontein	53	
Porges Randfontein	1,019	
Randfontein Deep	282	
Randfontein Deep Diamond Drill	12	
Randfontein Estates (A)	1,818	
Randfontein Estates (B)	281	
Robinson Randfontein	1,077	
South Randfontein	1,494	
Tudor	12	
West Rand Central	384	
West Rand Mines	33	
Windsor	532	
York	2	
Carried forward	19,419	

Brought forward	19,419	
Kroomdraai Lime Works	20	
Nolans Lime Works	130	
Sterkfontein	15	
Average number of natives employed by contractors	857	
		20,441
Heidelberg:—		
Nigel	1,048	
Hex River Exploration Company	3	
Coronation Syndicate	12	
Nigel Deep	862	
Houtpoort Syndicate	—	
Nigel Proprietary Mines	151	
Sub Nigel	62	
British Transvaal Mines	55	
South Rand Ex.	379	
New Fortuna Colliery	45	
Average number of natives employed by contractors	288	
		2,905
Klerksdorp:—		
Klerksdorp Gold and Diamond Company, Limited	384	
Niekerk	35	
Buffelsdoorn Estate and Gold Mines	79	
Klerksdorp Proprietary Mines	7	
Eastleigh Mines	5	
Afrikander Proprietary Mines	112	
Rietkuil Gold Mines	1	
Elandslaagte Mine	181	
West Bonanza	22	
Buffelsdoorn Consolidated	1	
Average number of natives employed by contractors	27	
		854
Pretoria:—		
Premier	3,172	
Pretoria District Diamond Mining Company...	303	
Montrose	205	
Pretoria Oriental	4	
Schuller	1	
Kaalfontein	2	
Edendale Estates	127	
Average number of natives employed by contractors	306	
		4,120
Middelburg:—		
Witbank Colliery	857	
Transvaal and Delagoa Bay Colliery	968	
Coronation Colliery	530	
Middelburg Steam Coal and Coke	308	
Landau Colliery	476	
Premier Coal Estates	202	
Anglo-French Colliery	90	
Douglas Colliery	181	
Crown Colliery	125	
Home Coal and Potteries	60	
		3,797

Vereeniging:—		
Vereeniging Estates	745	
Vereeniging Brick and Tile	196	
		941
Boksburg:—		
Angelo Deep	514	
Cinderella Deep	190	
Driefontein Deep	382	
East Rand Extension	365	
East Rand Proprietary Mines	6,236	
Ginsberg	1,037	
Wit Deep	317	
Van Dyk Proprietary	173	
Consolidated Brick and Potteries	128	
New Transvaal Chemical	144	
Balmoral	—	
Kleinfontein Group	1,405	
New Modderfontein	49	
Van Ryn	537	
Apex	684	
Brakpan Colliery	579	
Rand Central Electric Works	129	
Rand Collieries	12	
Brakpan Mines	318	
Western Kleinfontein	26	
Average number of natives employed by contractors	2,211	
		15,436
Springs:—		
Geduld Proprietary	16	
Clydesdale Colliery	436	
Tyne Valley Colliery	264	
Great Eastern	735	
De Rietfontein	608	
East Rand Gold and Coal	192	
Cassel Coal	2	
Cloverfield Gold Mine	250	
Welgedacht Exp.	153	
		2,656
Grand Total		103,590
Total average number of natives employed by contractors		7,887
Total number of natives on mines and works exclusive of natives employed by contractors		95,703

No. 55.

THE EARL OF ELGIN to GOVERNOR THE EARL OF SELBORNE.

(Sent 12.45 p.m., January 30, 1906.)

TELEGRAM.

[*Answered by No. 59.*]

January 30. No. 1. Your telegram, No. 1, 25th January.* Please state on

* No. 49.

how many mines your rule is in force that there should be at least one white official thoroughly conversant with the Chinese language.

No. 56.

GOVERNOR THE EARL OF SELBORNE to THE EARL OF ELGIN.

(Received 9.30 p.m., February 1, 1906.)

TELEGRAM.

February 1. No. 5. Your telegram of 13th January, No. 1.* Eleven Inspectors will be sufficient. So far there are only eight, but Jamieson feels convinced that with addition of Ruxton and Macandrew he can attain the object in view. At present every mine is visited at least twice a week, some more often, as occasion may require.

With regard to eleventh Inspector rather than find himself saddled with incompetent man Jamieson would prefer to wait until he heard of one fully qualified, and seeing that most of new coolies will be distributed amongst mines on which present system is understood, no serious results may be apprehended as consequences of delay. Jamieson suggests that His Majesty's Minister, Peking, might therefore again be approached with request to forward names of any men who have come to Chinese Secretary's notice since last list was sent in.

No. 57.

GOVERNOR THE EARL OF SELBORNE to THE EARL OF ELGIN.

(Received February 3, 1906.)

MY LORD, Governor's Office, Johannesburg, January 15, 1906.

WITH reference to my despatch of 6th January† and previous correspondence, I have the honour to enclose, for your information, a copy of the enclosed document on the subject of Mr. Boland's allegations regarding ill-treatment of Chinese labourers on the Nourse Deep, Limited.

2. In explanation of Mr. McCarthy's letter, I should state that on receipt of the information contained in my despatch of 20th November,‡ I caused to be conveyed to the authorities of the Nourse Deep Mine an expression of my strong disapproval of the conduct of Mr. McCarthy in not at once reporting to the proper authorities the outrage committed by Mr. Pless, which outrage I assumed that Mr. McCarthy was powerless to prevent.

I have, &c.,
SELBORNE,
Governor.

Enclosure in No. 57.

SECRETARY, Foreign Labour Department, Johannesburg, to PRIVATE SECRETARY TO GOVERNOR.

THE PRIVATE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNOR, Foreign Labour Department, Johannesburg, January 13, 1906.

With reference to previous correspondence on the allegations of ill-treatment

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* No. 35. † No. 52. ‡ No. 14.

of Chinese coolies, made by Mr. F. C. Boland and Mr. Mackarness, I am directed to forward, for the information of His Excellency the Governor, copy of a letter, dated 5th December, from the Secretary of the Nourse Deep, Limited.

GEORGE WOLFE-MURRAY, ...
Secretary.

Nourse Deep, Limited, The Corner House,
Johannesburg, December 5, 1905.

TREATMENT OF CHINESE LABOURERS.

SIR,

WITH reference to your letter of the 23rd ultimo, addressed to the General Manager, and to Mr. A. J. McCarthy's affidavit forwarded to you in my letter of 17th ultimo, I beg to advise that your remarks were forwarded to the Manager, and I am now instructed to send you herewith copy of a letter, dated 1st instant, addressed to the Acting Manager of the mine, by Mr. McCarthy.

I have, &c.,

Secretary.

The Superintendent,
Foreign Labour Department,
P.O. Box 201,
Jeppes.

LETTER dated December 1, 1905, from A. J. MCCARTHY, c/o Nourse Deep, Limited, on the subject of "Treatment of Chinese Labourers."

DEAR SIR,

WITH reference to the criticism of my action by the Superintendent of the Foreign Labour Department, in connection with the tying up incident, upon which I made an affidavit, dated the 15th November, 1905, I desire to say that I had no official right to do more than earnestly remonstrate with Mr. Pless on his conduct. After the incident I naturally considered it my duty to inform the Manager, but, on thinking the matter over, the idea was repugnant to me, as, having recently acquired my present position, my action would indicate me as a spy to my fellow officials and as one who curries favour with the Manager to the detriment of the man in whose private house I was boarding. After reading the mis-statements contained in Mr. Boland's letter, which letter I have no doubt was inspired by Mr. Pless, I then considered that it was my duty to lay before the Acting Manager my evidence as to the personality of Mr. Pless.

Yours, &c.,
A. J. MCCARTHY.

The Acting Manager,
Nourse Deep, Limited.

No. 58.

GOVERNOR THE EARL OF SELBORNE to THE EARL OF ELGIN.

(Received 6.44 p.m., February 3, 1906.)

TELEGRAM.

(Extract.)

February 3. No. 3. An interesting and significant great public meeting was held in Johannesburg on Thursday to protest against the calumnious reflections cast

against the Witwatersrand community anent the treatment of the Chinese coolies. The Mayor, who has been always opposed to Chinese labour on principle, presided, and leading members of the Responsible Government party as well as of the Progressive party supported him. The strength of feeling which I have reported to you on this subject was fully manifested and I am given to say (*sic*) that the resolutions included one demanding a public inquiry by an impartial Commission into the treatment of the Chinese. As was to be expected those who are opposed to Chinese labour, although repudiating the calumnies, take opportunity of saying so; one man indeed said he could (? give) information as to the ill-treatment of Chinese. Of course I took him at his word and sent the Superintendent of Foreign Labour next day to ask him to place his information at the disposal of the Attorney-General. I have not yet heard the result.

No. 59.

GOVERNOR THE EARL OF SELBORNE to THE EARL OF ELGIN.

(Received 1.20 p.m., February 5, 1906.)

TELEGRAM.

February 5. No. 2. Your telegram, January 30, No. 1.* Out of 37 mines employing Chinese there are 27 in which Chinese-speaking white men are employed Regulation just passed gives Lieutenant-Governor full powers in this matter.†

No. 60.

THE EARL OF ELGIN to GOVERNOR THE EARL OF SELBORNE.

(Sent 6.5 p.m., February 5, 1906.)

TELEGRAM.

February 5. No. 1. Your despatch, 8th January,‡ paragraph 2. I am advised that Attorney-General has misread main clause of contract, which should be interpreted as reading: "Shall there work in accordance with the provisions of the Labour Importation Ordinance 1904." Contracts should be altered as directed in my telegram 28th December, No. 2.§ Clause 5 should be altered to agree with regulation No. 24, page 7, Cd. 2183.

No. 61.

THE EARL OF ELGIN to GOVERNOR THE EARL OF SELBORNE.

(Sent 11 a.m., February 8, 1906.)

TELEGRAM.

February 8. No. 1. Your telegram, No. 3, 24th January.‖ Even if proposal does not prejudge question His Majesty's Government prefer not to take any steps which might be construed as giving countenance to continuance of importation. As a matter of fact there is little probability of War Office recalling Inspectors even at end of year's engagement, and it is possible to obtain others similarly. In any case cannot learn until April whether Minister at Peking can arrange as requested.

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* No. 55. † See Appendix No. VI. ‡ No. 53. § No. 22. ‖ No. 48.

No. 62.

COLONIAL OFFICE to Mr. C. H. NORMAN.

Sir, Downing Street, February 10, 1906.

With reference to my letter of the 8th of December,* I am directed by the Earl of Elgin to transmit to you copies of two despatches† from the Governor of the Transvaal reporting on the allegation of ill-treatment of Chinese coolies made by Mr. Boland in an article published in the "Morning Leader" of the 6th of September.

Governor, 20th November.
Governor, 6th January.

2. Lord Selborne has now informed Lord Elgin that no prosecution has been instituted, or is about to be instituted, in connection with any of the charges made by Mr. Boland, as it is impossible to obtain sufficient evidence on which a particular charge can be brought against any particular person on such general charges as those contained in Mr. Boland's article. The information obtained in connection with them which is contained in the despatches copies of which are now forwarded to you does not appear to the Law Officers of the Transvaal to furnish ground for a prosecution.

I am, &c.,
FRED. GRAHAM.

No. 63.

Governor the EARL OF SELBORNE to the EARL OF ELGIN.

(Received February 10, 1906.)

My Lord, Governor's Office, Johannesburg, January 22, 1906.

I have the honour to transmit to you the accompanying copy of a letter from the Secretary to the Transvaal Chamber of Mines enclosing a memorandum prepared by the Chamber on the effects which would follow from arresting the importation of Chinese labour into the Transvaal.

I have, &c.,
SELBORNE,
Governor.

Enclosure in No. 63.

Secretary, Transvaal Chamber of Mines, to Governor.

Sir, Transvaal Chamber of Mines, Johannesburg, January 16, 1906.

I have the honour, by direction of my Executive Committee, to transmit to His Excellency a Memorandum prepared by the Chamber on the effect of arresting the importation of Chinese labour.

I have, &c.,
J. Cowie,
Secretary.

The Private Secretary to
His Excellency the Right Honourable
The Earl of Selborne, P.C., G.C.M.G.,
Governor of the Transvaal,
Johannesburg.

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* No. 13.

† Nos. 14 and 52.

The despatch of the Secretary of State for the Colonies to His Excellency the Governor, published on the 23rd December, has naturally received the careful attention of the Executive Committee of the Chamber. The despatch taken in conjunction with the telegraphic correspondence between the Secretary of State and His Excellency since published, and with many statements made before and since by responsible members of His Majesty's Government shows unmistakably that His Majesty's Government are opposed to the system under which Chinese are being imported into the Transvaal under indenture as unskilled labourers for the mines, that they would have been disposed to cancel the licences already granted for further importation, and that they have taken, or will take, measures to prevent the issue of fresh licences for coolie labourers, required either for the further expansion of the industry or for making up wastage resulting from death or repatriation of coolies or from a decrease in the supply of Kaffir labour, pending a direct expression of opinion on the subject by the people of this Colony, such expression of opinion to be obtained through an elective legislature.

It appears, therefore, to the Committee, that in the interests of the vast number of shareholders who are the owners of the mines, of the community of Johannesburg, and of South Africa in general, it should be shown by means of indisputable figures to what extent the gold mining industry is to-day dependent on Chinese labour, and what the consequences of arresting its importation would be.

At the 31st December last there were on the Rand in the employ of companies, members of the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association (including collieries) and Chamber of Mines Labour Importation Agency, 87,673 natives and 47,217 coolies. In addition, there are on the water 1,947 coolies. Definite arrangements have been made by the Labour Importation Agency for the importation under licence of 9,878, licences have been granted for 3,000 more, and applications, for which licences have not yet been granted, have been received in respect of further 1,267.

The exact position is, therefore, as follows:—

Kaffirs employed	87,673
Coolies on the Rand	47,217
Coolies on the water	1,947
Coolies licensed and definitely arranged for by the Labour Importation Agency	9,878
Coolies licensed but not definitely arranged for by the Labour Importation Agency	3,000
Coolies applied for but not licensed	1,267

It is difficult to specify exactly the share which must be attributed to the Chinese in the results now being obtained from the mines and in the progress of their development, seeing that on numerous mines both Chinese and Kaffir labour is employed in varying proportions. It is, however, obvious, from the figures above quoted, that more than one-third of the entire industry is to-day absolutely dependent on Chinese labour.

It is now generally admitted that having regard to native conditions in South Africa, it is hopeless for many years to come to expect any appreciable and constant increase in the number of Kaffir labourers available for work on the mines. Since its formation in 1901 the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association has spent on recruiting operations just £1,000,000, of which £274,619 18s. 3d. was spent during 1905, and to-day its members are employing natives recruited from the Transvaal, Cape Colony, Basutoland, the Province of Mozambique, Zambesia, British Central Africa, North-Western Rhodesia, Nyassaland, and German South-West Africa, the proportion of Portuguese natives employed being now 68 per cent.

The average numbers of natives employed by members since the war are as follows:—

July to December, 1902	44,364
January to June, 1903	58,662
July to December, 1903	71,589
January to June, 1904	75,899
July to December, 1904	76,515
January to June, 1905	97,948
July, 1905	97,454

August, 1905	94,563
September, 1905	91,686
October, 1905	90,292
November, 1905	89,549
December, 1905	87,673
July to December, 1905	91,869

It will be seen that the highest average results obtained were for the period January to June, 1905.

It is now recognised that this was due to a large influx of natives from certain districts which do not as a rule supply much labour for the mines. The general depression throughout British South Africa resulting from the stagnation of the mining industry, owing to scarcity of labour in 1903 and 1904, led to widespread retrenchment in public and private enterprise. The natives thus finding their ordinary fields of employment closed, and having at the same time to face unusually bad harvests, were obliged to come to the mines for work. These exceptional circumstances having to a great extent passed away, these natives are now leaving the mines. The effect is seen in the returns for the last six months, given above, and it is by no means certain that the reflux is yet at an end. Moreover, the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association is at present wholly unable to meet the requisitions of its members.

As the gold mining industry progresses so does the white population increase, and so do other industries spring up and expand. The consequence is an ever-increasing demand for labour, the seriousness of which is indicated by :—

Complaints of scarcity of labour made by farmers to His Excellency the Governor during his recent journeys, *e.g.*, at Blaauwbank, on December 6th, and Heidelberg, 5th December, 1905, and the difficulty in obtaining native labour experienced by the diamond mining and other industries, where higher wages are offered, and the work is lighter than on the gold mines (see Chairman's speech at the annual general meeting of De Beers Consolidated Mines, Limited, held at Kimberley, on 24th November last).

Confirmation is thus afforded to the conclusion arrived at by the Transvaal Labour Commission in November, 1903, that the expansion of South African industries has far out-stripped the labour supply.

The Committee are, therefore, forced to the conclusion that there is no justification for expecting that the normal supply of Kaffir labour can be kept at a higher figure than the present, viz., 87,673, or, excluding those employed on collieries, 79,484; more especially as from the official telegraphic correspondence above referred to, it may be inferred that there is at least a possibility of recruiting in tropical areas, from which natives are now drawn in the summer months, being totally arrested, a step which would mean to the industry an actual loss of more than 10,000 natives.

The Committee have, therefore, invited the various mining groups to supply figures showing the effect on the undertakings under their control which would be produced by the limitation of the supply of unskilled labour to the number of Kaffirs and coolies at present available.

Detailed replies have been received from the following groups, which practically represent the entire gold mining industry of the Rand :—

Messrs. H. Eckstein and Co., and the Rand Mines, Limited;
The Consolidated Gold Fields of South Africa, Limited;
Messrs. A. Goerz & Co., Limited;
Messrs. S. Neumann & Co.;
The Johannesburg Consolidated Investment, Co. Limited;
The East Rand Proprietary Mines, Limited, and the Kleinfontein Group;
The General Mining and Finance Corporation, Limited;
The Transvaal Gold Fields, Limited; and
J. B. Robinson.

From the replies it is found that :—

1. The number of stamps, the erection of which is in immediate contemplation, if more labour is available during the next twelve months, but

orders for which will not be given if no Chinese in addition to those already sanctioned are allowed to be imported, is 3,740.

Note.—The time occupied by the preparations necessary to bring these stamps into full operation will vary from one year to three years.

2. The value of plant and machinery incidental thereto is £10,103,207.
3. The value of the spare parts of machinery, stores and supplies which would be required in connection with the above during the first year after the completion of the programme is, in addition, £2,180,661.
4. The number of additional European skilled labourers who would find employment in the event of the programme contained under heads 1, 2, and 3, being carried out, but whose services would not be required if the importation of coolies were arrested, 5,912.
5. The local expenditure per annum by the various groups entailed by the carrying out of this programme, but which would not be incurred if, owing to the arrest of importation the programme were abandoned, £5,918,424.

The above figures indicate the loss to the industry, to manufactures of machinery, and to the community in general, which would be entailed by the abandonment of work for which the mining groups have made preparation and provision in the expectation that a steady supply of coolie labour would be available to meet the demand arising from the continuous expansion of the industry.

The Committee have also invited information from the mining groups as to the effect on existing undertakings which would be produced by the suspension of all further importation of Chinese, and by the repatriation at the expiry of their contracts of the coolies who are, or will be within the next few months, at work upon the Rand.

As under such circumstances more than one-third of the existing supply of unskilled labour would be withdrawn, it would obviously be impossible to carry on operations on anything like the same scale as at present. Work would inevitably be concentrated by each group on the properties from which the best results could be obtained, and operations on the remaining properties would accordingly be perforce suspended.

The effects which would be thus produced are summarised in the following figures, which have been supplied by the groups above mentioned :—

A. The number of stamps now running which would be hung up owing to certain companies having to suspend operations in order to allow of others on which work would be concentrated running their mills to fully capacity is 3,135.

B. The value of plant and machinery incidental to such 3,135 stamps is £11,235,756.

Note. The difference in the average value per stamp of these 3,135, and of the 3,740 stamps referred to in paragraph 1, is due to the fact that the former figure includes a large number of stamps to be added to existing mills already provided with power plants and other appliances.

C. The number of skilled Europeans who would have to be dismissed through the necessary concentration of work and consequent hanging up of stamps and suspension of development operations is 6,405.

D. The amount of local expenditure per annum which would cease to be incurred owing to concentration of work and consequent hanging up of stamps and suspension of development operations is £6,636,327.

The Committee further desire to point out that the output of gold for the month of December from the mines of the Transvaal, amounting to 431,594 ounces, of a value of £1,833,295, was produced by the operation of 7,335 stamps, and that the hanging up of 3,135 stamps, as above mentioned, would reduce the output by approximately 40 per cent.

The Committee trust that the figures quoted in this memorandum, which are as accurate as it is possible for any estimate to be, and which speak for themselves, will afford matter for the earnest consideration of all who are disposed to think that Chinese labour is not of vital importance to the industry and to South Africa.

Transvaal Chamber of Mines,
Johannesburg,
January 15, 1906.

No. 64.

GOVERNOR THE EARL OF SELBORNE to THE EARL OF ELGIN.

(Received February 10, 1906.)

MY LORD, Governor's Office, Johannesburg, January 22, 1906.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you the accompanying copy of a letter from the Secretary to the Transvaal Chamber of Mines which will make clear to you the views held by the Chamber upon the correspondence which has recently been published with regard to the decision of His Majesty's Government as to the further importation of Chinese labour into the Transvaal.

I have, &c.,
SELBORNE,
Governor.

Enclosure in No. 64.

SECRETARY, Transvaal Chamber of Mines, to GOVERNOR.

Transvaal Chamber of Mines, Johannesburg,
SIR, January 15, 1906.

I HAVE the honour to inform His Excellency that a special meeting of the Executive Committee of this Chamber was held to-day to consider the telegraphic correspondence between His Excellency and the Secretary of State for the Colonies on the subject of indentured Chinese labour which appeared in the local press on the 12th and 13th instants.

My Committee note with satisfaction that His Majesty's Government have acknowledged the validity of licences to import labourers already signed by His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor.

My Committee, while agreeing that Chinese labour was permitted as a supplement to, and not as a substitute for, Kaffir labour, must respectfully decline to admit that the estimates of the labour requirements of the mining industry by Mr. W. Evans, the late Superintendent of the Foreign Labour Department, which were made up in February, 1904, are applicable at this date, and they desire to re-affirm the principle that the requirements of the industry as regards Chinese indentured labour must be dependent on the expansion of the industry, and on the amount of native labour from time to time available. They would point out, in this connection, that since April last the native labour supply has very considerably decreased, and they cannot, in any way, admit that the number of natives on the Rand before the war can be taken as the standard of the amount of unskilled labour required.

With regard to the Secretary of State's telegram, No. 1, of the 15th December, 1905, in which he comments on a telegram despatched by his predecessor in office on 27th October, 1905, to the effect that "it would be good policy for the mine-owners voluntarily to stop importation for the next six months," my Committee can only regard the telegram in question as a mere expression of opinion on the part of the late Colonial Secretary, in which, owing to the great demand for labour, it would be impossible for them to acquiesce.

As regards those parts of His Excellency's telegram, No. 2, of January 1st, 1906, and the Secretary of State's telegram, No. 2, of January 5th, 1906, which refer to His Excellency's expression of opinion that "if His Majesty's Government allowed the licences already issued to stand, their decision that no fresh ones are to be issued till the opinions of the elected representatives of the people can be taken next July will be loyally accepted, and there will be no feeling of injustice," my Committee, in view of the serious effect on the industry which any prolongation of the present uncertainty as to the continuance of coolie importation will undoubtedly produce, trust that His Majesty's Government will recognise the extreme importance of taking without delay the steps necessary to enable the people of this Colony to immediately settle this all important matter.

My Committee respectfully request His Excellency to convey the substance of this communication to His Majesty's Government.

I have, &c.,
J. Cowie,
Secretary.

The Private Secretary to
His Excellency the Right Honourable
The Earl of Selborne, P.C., G.C.M.G.,
Governor of the Transvaal,
Johannesburg.

No. 65.

Governor the EARL OF SELBORNE to The EARL OF ELGIN.

(Received February 10, 1906.)

My Lord, Governor's Office, Johannesburg, January 22, 1906

With reference to my despatch of to-day's date,* I have the honour to enclose, for your information, a copy of a letter from the Secretary of the Johannesburg Chamber of Trade on the subject of the possible restriction of the importation and employment of Chinese labourers.

I have, &c.,
SELBORNE,
Governor.

Enclosure in No. 65.

Secretary, Johannesburg Chamber of Trade, to High Commissioner.

Johannesburg Chamber of Trade (Incorporated),
Johannesburg, January 16, 1906.

Re Chinese Indentured Labour.

Your Excellency,

By direction of my Executive Committee, I have the honour to submit to you the following resolution which was unanimously passed at a General Meeting of Members of this Chamber, held to-day:—

> "That this meeting of members of the Johannesburg Chamber of Trade, being absolutely convinced of the beneficial results accruing from the importation of Chinese indentured labour, views with grave alarm any possible restrictions to the importation and the employment of Chinese in this Colony."

I am instructed to ask that the purport of the resolution may be communicated to His Majesty's Government.

I have, &c.,
E. C. Lowe,
Secretary.

His Excellency
The High Commissioner for South Africa,
Johannesburg.

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* No. 64

No. 66.

GOVERNOR THE EARL OF SELBORNE to THE EARL OF ELGIN.

(Received February 10, 1906.)

MY LORD, Governor's Office, Johannesburg, January 22, 1906.

WITH reference to my despatch of to-day's date,* I have the honour to enclose, for your information, a copy of a letter from Secretaries of the Krugersdorp and District Chamber of Commerce, on the subject of Chinese labour.

I have, &c.,
SELBORNE,
Governor.

Enclosure in No. 66.

SECRETARIES, Krugersdorp and District Chamber of Commerce, to GOVERNOR.

Krugersdorp and District Chamber of Commerce,
YOUR EXCELLENCY, Box 7, Krugersdorp, January 19, 1906.

WE are instructed to forward you the following resolution, which was unanimously passed at a General Meeting of the Krugersdorp and District Chamber of Commerce, held here on the 15th instant:—

> "That this Chamber is of opinion that imported unskilled labour is absolutely essential to the welfare of the mining industry and the country at large, and that it strongly protests against the misrepresentation and calumnies urged by party politicans in Great Britain with reference to the Chinese labour."

We are, &c.,
SHEPPARD AND LECHE,
Secretaries.

His Excellency Lord Selborne,
Governor of the Transvaal and Orange River Colony,
High Commissioner of South Africa.

No. 67.

GOVERNOR THE EARL OF SELBORNE to THE EARL OF ELGIN.

(Received February 10, 1906.)

MY LORD, Governor's Office, Johannesburg, January 22, 1906.

IN your telegram of the 5th January, 1906, No. 4,† you refer to the statement in my despatch of the 18th September, 1905,‡ that some of the Chinese did not understand what was entailed by "mining labour," and that they are undoubtedly disappointed and will not be likely to re-engage. You drew my attention to the importance of affording no ground for the allegation that Chinese are detained against their will in the Transvaal solely because they have not the money necessary to secure repatriation under Clause XIV. of their contracts, and you directed me to consider whether it would not be possible to frame regulations, somewhat on the lines of Clause VII. of the Labour Importation Ordinance, providing that the Lieutenant-Governor might, on being satisfied by the Superintendent of Foreign Labour that a coolie, who had applied to be repatriated, did not possess

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* No. 65. † No. 28. ‡ No. 25 in [Cd. 2786].

the necessary funds, call upon the importers to repatriate him, the Government making up to them the amount which the coolie was unable to provide himself, and further to inform you how such a regulation would be received, and to what extent advantage would be likely to be taken of it, and to consider how funds could be provided to give effect to it.

2. Regarded abstractedly, the suggestion is one for which I think there is much to be said. At any rate, personally, I feel that, if it were practicable, it would be a great relief to me. I am convinced that comparatively few of the coolies have any wish to be repatriated; others in England think differently. I should like to put our opinions to the test. There are, however, practical objections to the proposal, which I shall proceed to state.

3. Immediately on receiving your telegram* I consulted Sir Richard Solomon, the Acting Lieutenant-Governor of the Transvaal, and he has pointed out to me that, although compulsory repatriation of Chinese labourers is provided for in certain cases specifically mentioned in the Labour Importation Ordinance, 1904 (Section 26), and in the Amending Ordinance, 1905 (Section 7), it is quite clear that the power to repatriate compulsorily cannot be extended by regulation. On the other hand, he added that voluntary repatriation, that is repatriation at the request of the labourer, involves the determination of the contract between him and his employer, and unless provided for in that contract can only be made with the consent of the employer in each particular case. Further, he showed me that the object of His Majesty's Government could be carried out without regulation in a manner to which the employer could not object. The contract provides (Clause 14) "that any labourer may at any time terminate his contract, without assigning any reason, on tendering to the said C.D. (the employer) the expenses incurred in introducing him and his wife and children into the Transvaal, together with a sum sufficient to defray the expenditure necessary in returning them to the port at which the labourer embarked." It is not necessary for the purposes of this clause that the labourer himself should tender out of his own pocket the expenses referred to. As far as the employer is concerned they may be tendered by the Government on behalf of the labourer out of public funds, but the Government must justify this expenditure to the public. It would naturally be paid out of the public revenue and would have to appear on the estimates and be voted by the Legislative Assembly.

4. Sir Richard Solomon does not see any necessity for consulting the Chamber of Mines because, if such a policy is adopted, it can only be adopted with the approval of the people of the Transvaal, whose representatives would have to vote the necessary money for the purpose, and he gravely doubts whether the representatives of the people would consent to the Government making a practice of purchasing the discharges of coolies recruited to work in the mines merely because they have not the funds to purchase their own discharges as they contracted to do. He thinks that there may be exceptional cases in which it would be reasonable for the Government to incur this expenditure, but they ought to be cases recommended by the Superintendent and approved by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council.

5. My comments on these observations are as follows:—

(*a.*) I do not believe that the Government would, by the policy proposed, be involved in any large expenditure if only those coolies were repatriated under it who really desired to return to China and to remain there. But I do fear that the expenditure might be large for a very different reason, which I shall presently proceed to state. I must also point out that it would be contrary to human nature if, after the Government had once undertaken this liability, any coolie, who desired to be repatriated, disclosed that he possessed any savings available for the purpose.

(*b.*) I entirely agree with Sir Richard Solomon, that the public would scrutinise this expenditure very carefully, and that an elected Legislature would be unlikely to vote it.

(*c.*) The representatives of the people would be unlikely to vote this expenditure because they would say: "where is the application of this principle likely to lead us? If it is to be applied to a Chinese coolie, who has made a contract from which he wishes to be released, how shall we know that we shall not be called upon to apply it in the case of the native from the Portuguese territories, who has made a similar contract and who also desires to be released from it at the public expense? Or how, indeed, if we establish this principle in favour of Chinese and Portuguese natives, can we refuse to apply the same principle to our own fellow-countrymen, who, for instance, in the South African Constabulary or the Army, may have entered into a contract, binding them to remain for a certain number of years in the Transvaal, who now find that they do not like service in the Transvaal, who have not the money at their command with which to purchase immediately their discharges, but who would say that they have at least as much right to be released from their contracts at the public expense and to be returned to England as a Chinese coolie has to be released from his contract at the public expense and returned to China, or a Portuguese native to be released from his contract at the public expense and returned to Mozambique?" Again, they would raise the following objection: it is one which has strongly forced itself upon my attention, and it is the one which I have already said I will state to you. The representatives of the people would ask, "what is to prevent a Chinese coolie, who is quite contented with his employment and, in fact, well satisfied with it, but who would like a short holiday in China at the public expense, demanding to be repatriated on the grounds suggested by His Majesty's Government, with the intention of returning to the Witwatersrand, in a fresh ship-load of indentured coolies directly he has spent his savings and enjoyed his holiday?" That this is no imaginary danger, the following facts will show: One coolie, who had purchased his discharge, and 22, who had been repatriated on account of physical infirmities, have already returned to South Africa in fresh ship-loads of indentured coolies. These men were actually recognised at the Durban depôt, but it has since been ascertained that there are a number of other coolies who have been repatriated once already from one cause or another, who have also returned, and also, not having been identified at Durban when they landed a second time, are now actually again working on the mines of the Witwatersrand. Further, the Superintendent of Foreign Labour is in great difficulties in connection with this very subject. He has been informed by the Foreign Labour Importation Agency that their agents in China find that numbers of repatriated coolies are seeking to return to the Transvaal. If they are recognised and fail to be re-engaged at the port from which they originally embarked, they forthwith proceed to another port of embarkation in the hope that they will not be recognised there and will be re-engaged. It was with a view to checking this movement that I asked your permission for instructions to be sent to our Minister at Pekin, directing him to ask the Chinese provincial authorities to keep an eye on repatriated coolies so as to prevent their return.

6. The Superintendent of Foreign Labour expresses the opinion that the high sense of the binding nature of a written contract entertained by the Chinese would, in the nature of things, deter any coolie from expressing a desire to break his contract, and he states that no case of a coolie not possessing the necessary funds wherewith to purchase his discharge, applying for repatriation has come to his notice. Further, he informs me that coolies who, through their own bad behaviour, gambling and the like, have got into disgrace on the mine on which they live often apply to him for a transfer to some other mine, that from the date of the first arrival of the coolies to the 31st December, 1905, 198 labourers have purchased their discharge, and that in the case where a coolie has not had the necessary funds for the purpose, the amount has been made up for him by means of voluntary contributions on the part of his fellow-workers. In his opinion it would be inexpedient to introduce any modi-

fication of the existing conditions of the contract. Speaking generally, the Superintendent is inclined to think that 80 per cent. of the coolies on the Rand will be prepared to renew their agreements at the end of their three years' indenture.

7. For these reasons, I regret to say that I do not think that the suggestion contained in your telegram of the 5th January, 1906,* is one to which practical effect can be given. I, however, associate myself entirely with the suggestion made by Sir Richard Solomon, as reported in the last sentence of paragraph 4 of this despatch.

I have, &c.,
SELBORNE,
Governor.

No. 68.

THE EARL OF ELGIN to GOVERNOR THE EARL OF SELBORNE.

(Sent 6.53 p.m., February 16, 1906.)

TELEGRAM.

February 16. No. 2. Your despatch, 22nd January.† I observe that it is stated by the Chamber of Mines that for many years to come it is hopeless to expect any appreciable and constant increase in the number of Kaffir labourers for the mines, and they proceed to cite figures and facts according to which confirmation is afforded to the conclusion arrived at by the Transvaal Labour Commission, 1903, that the expansion of South African industries has far outstripped the labour supply.

The finding of the majority of Commission referred to was that the mines of the Witwatersrand alone would require within the next five years, that is to say, by the end of 1908, a supply of 196,000 labourers in addition to the 129,000 labourers in respect to which demand of the Transvaal mining industry at that time was in excess of the existing supply. This would involve an additional supply of about 250,000 labourers beyond present figures, all of which apparently must be drawn from China or some other external source seeing that practically maximum of supply from South African sources has been reached.

No such numbers had been contemplated by His Majesty's late Government, by whom the introduction of Chinese labourers was from the outset regarded as of an experimental and not of an unlimited or permanent character.

The statement of the Chamber of Mines proceeds to give figures as to the number of stamps the erection of which is in immediate contemplation if more labour is available during the next 12 months. The number given is 3,740, which at 15 labourers per stamp would involve the introduction of 56,100. But in a note it is added that the time occupied by preparation necessary to bring these stamps into full operation will vary from one year to three years. If the average time is taken at two years, it would appear that at the most 85,000 labourers will be required within three years, a number representing a third of the requirements as stated by the Labour Commission of 1903: thus the mining industry would seem to have now abated their demands of 1903 by about two-thirds.

Some explanation of this result is afforded by a statement‡ of the mining engineers presented to Mr. Chamberlain in January, 1903, containing an exhibit§ of projected capital expenditure for five years, which was on a scale representing 5,000 to 6,000 stamps in addition to the stamps then erected, 6,325.

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* No. 28. † No. 63. ‡ Appendix I in Cd. 1895. § See Appendix No. VII.

Such a number of additional stamps would have represented at 15 coloured labourers per stamp an additional supply of 75,000 to 90,000. With regard to this exhibit, however, the mining engineers stated:

> * "Exhibit 10 has been prepared to give some idea of the engineers' anticipations regarding the possible extension of the industry in the event of abundant labour supply and other favourable conditions; and this must be regarded as a very optimistic estimate, as it is based on ideal conditions.
>
> "This statement should be received with great reserve, as it is based on hopes founded on suppositions difficult of fulfilment; but it at least gives the possible achievements attendant on the successful efforts of investor, engineer, and miner, coupled with fostering care and aid from Government, and the right solution of the present labour difficulties."

The present statement of the Chamber of Mines then continues to record what the effect would be of the withdrawal of more than a third of the existing supply of unskilled labourers. It points out that 3,135 stamps would be hung up, 6,405 skilled Europeans dismissed, and the output of gold reduced by 40 per cent., owing to the fact that work would be concentrated on the properties from which the best results could be attained.

The statement tacitly assumes that there are no other possibilities of retrieving the position with a limited labour supply, and takes no account of the ability of the industry, under pressure of circumstances and with a view to satisfying shareholders desiring some return for their investment, to introduce labour-saving appliances, to promote greater efficiency, to improve organisation, and to develope all those expedients to which the resourcefulness and energy of such an industry would have to resort in other countries where mining is conducted with a limited labour supply, and often with white labour only.

Apart, therefore, from the difficulty of reconciling the estimates of future requirements as set forth in 1903 and 1906, His Majesty's Government cannot take it for granted that a third of the mines now working would lie idle as a consequence of the repatriation of the Chinese labourers at the expiry of their contracts.

No. 69.

GOVERNOR THE EARL OF SELBORNE to THE EARL OF ELGIN.

(Received February 17, 1906.)

MY LORD, Governor's Office, Johannesburg, January 29, 1906.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 27th November, 1905,† I have the honour to forward, for Your Lordship's information, a comparative statement of mortality amongst natives employed on mines in labour districts.

2. I should point out that the exceptionally high rate for the month of November is due to the fact that a serious accident occurred on the Driefontein Mine, which raised the normal accident rate from 4·5 to 13·08 per 1,000 per annum. Otherwise the total mortality would have been 54·5, which is less than that of the same month of the previous year, and considerably below November, 1903, which was 79·4.

I have, &c.,
SELBORNE,
Governor.

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* See page 336 in Cd. 1895.

† No. 16.

Enclosure in No. 69.

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF MORTALITY AMONGST NATIVES EMPLOYED ON MINES IN LABOUR DISTRICTS.

Month.	No. of Natives employed.		No. of Deaths from Disease.		Death Rate per 1,000 per Annum from Disease.		No. of Deaths from Accident.		Death Rate per 1,000 per Annum from Accident.		Total No. of Deaths.		Total Death Rate per 1,000 per Annum.	
	1904.	1905.	1904.	1905.	1904.	1905.	1904.	1905.	1904.	1905.	1904.	1905.	1904.	1905.
January	79,161	94,905	370	334	56·09	42·23	19	43	2·88	5·44	389	377	58·96	47·67
February	80,365	102,039	223	312	33·30	36·69	22	47	3·29	5·53	245	359	36·58	42·22
March	83,904	109,651	223	333	31·89	36·44	31	52	4·43	5·69	254	385	36·33	42·13
April	85,400	113,789	168	316	23·61	33·32	59	44	8·29	4·64	227	360	31·90	37·97
May	85,994	113,286	289	397	40·33	42·05	24	40	3·35	4·24	313	437	43·68	46·29
June	83,536	112,788	231	488	33·18	51·92	25	32	3·59	3·40	256	520	36·77	55·33
July	74,479	110,712	202	460	32·55	49·86	36	26	5·80	2·82	238	486	38·35	52·68
August	78,514	108,488	229	393	34·54	43·47	20	36	3·06	3·98	246	429	37·60	47·45
September	79,416	105,987	242	318	36·57	36·00	27	34	4·08	3·85	269	352	40·5	39·85
October	83,606	103,807	336	339	48·23	39·19	21	44	3·01	5·09	357	383	51·24	44·27
November	86,812	103,645	378	432	52·25	50·02	31	113	4·29	13·08	409	545	56·54	63·10
Average	81,926	107,191	263	375	38·52	41·98	29	46	4·25	5·15	291	421	42·62	47·13

No. 70.

Governor the EARL of SELBORNE to The EARL OF ELGIN.

(Received February 17, 1906.)

My Lord, Governor's Office, Johannesburg, January 29, 1906.

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your telegram of the 16th January, No. 2,* in which you raise a number of questions relating to the treatment of Chinese labourers employed on the Witwatersrand Gold Mines, and ask as to the efficiency of the new system of magisterial jurisdiction exercised by the Superintendent of Foreign Labour and by his inspectors. On the latter point I have already communicated to you, in my despatch of the 8th January,* the opinion of the Superintendent of Foreign Labour, in which I fully concur, that the system provided for in the Foreign Labour Importation Amendment Ordinance is no longer experimental nor on its trial, and that its success has been proved by the unanimous approval of all persons concerned, by the small number of complaints addressed by the labourers to the Superintendent of Foreign Labour, to whom all coolies are aware that they have direct access, and by the success which has attended the efforts of the Government to identify and arrest the labourers guilty of the comparatively small number of crimes which have been committed. From the 3rd October, 1905, to January 15th, 1906, the inspectors have tried 2,771 coolies, of whom 2,632 have been convicted and 139 discharged. The principal offences with which they have had to deal have been the forging of work tickets, refusal to work, absence without permit, desertion, and illegal possession of opium.

2. On the question of the efficiency of the new system of magisterial jurisdiction of the Superintendent and inspectors, the Attorney-General, who, as Executive Head of the Law Department, is directly responsible for it, is preparing a report, but the pressure of work has been so great that he has, I regret to say, found it impossible to have it ready for this mail.

3. But I understand that you wish for a full report of my views upon the manner in which the officers of the Foreign Labour Department are carrying out not only their duties of preventing and dealing with offences committed by the labourers, but also their equally important duties of befriending them and protecting them against any improper treatment.

4. While I am satisfied that the officers of the Foreign Labour Department do efficiently discharge these duties, and while I know that the coolies are aware that they can always bring any complaint which they may have before these officers for investigation, and that they have confidence that their complaints will be justly dealt with, it is not easy to give within the limits of a despatch concrete evidence of the effects of the relations which exist between the coolies and the officers of the Foreign Labour Department.

5. The lines upon which inspectors of the Foreign Labour Department are required to work are shown in the circular letter addressed to them by Mr. Jamieson on the 20th November, a copy of which was enclosed in my despatch of the 4th December last,* and from that despatch you will also see that the co-operation of mine managements in assisting the inspectors to carry out their duties has in every case been invited.

6. The inspectors are carrying out the instructions which have been given to them to the best of their ability, and no complaint by any coolie ever remains uninvestigated. The chief difficulty, however, with which the inspectors have to contend is that in many cases where grievances are believed to exist the aggrieved person himself prefers to maintain silence. It is obviously impossible to expect the inspectors fully to elucidate the facts with regard to such cases.

7. These cases occur for the most part in connection with disputes arising among the Chinese themselves. There is no lack of opportunity for having such disputes settled by the inspectors of the Foreign Labour Department. Proclamations in Chinese setting forth the machinery provided by law for the settlement of disputes are posted in every compound, and the Superintendent of Foreign Labour

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* No. 36. † No. 53. ‡ See No. 20.

has good grounds for believing that they are carefully studied. Petitions duly lodged by the coolies in the petition boxes provided under Government regulations on every mine or sent into the Superintendent in town are closely investigated.

8. It is not easy to see how the opportunities given to the coolies of bringing forward any grievances which they may have could be increased, especially when it is remembered that in addition to the right of lodging petitions, every coolie has the right to have a personal interview with the Superintendent whenever he requires it. Owing to the fact that the magisterial functions of the inspectors are as yet new to them, and that it must necessarily take some little time for them to master the intricacies of legal form and procedure, it has so far been difficult for the existing staff of inspectors to spare quite as much time as is desirable from their magisterial functions and to devote it to their purely inspectorial duties. This, however, is a difficulty which will right itself as the inspectors become more familiar with legal procedure, and when the full number of inspectors have taken up their duties. As you are aware, I am still awaiting the arrival of two inspectors, Major MacAndrew and Captain Ruxton, whose services have been put at the disposal of the Foreign Labour Department. When these gentlemen arrive it will, I hope, be possible to secure that every mine on which Chinese labourers are employed will be visited by an inspector at least once in every forty-eight hours, which, as you know, has always been my object.

9. At present every mine where Chinese labour is employed is visited at least twice a week. I append a specimen schedule of an inspector's weekly visits :—

(1) Witwatersrand, Monday, 10 a.m.; Wednesday, 3 p.m.
(2) New Rietfontein, Tuesday, 10 a.m.; Thursday, 3 p.m.
(3) Glen Deep, Wednesday, 10 a.m.; Friday, 3 p.m.
(4) Rose Deep, Thursday, 10 a.m.; Saturday, 3 p.m.
(5) Simmer and Jack East, Friday, 10 a.m.; Monday, 3 p.m.

10. Mr. Purdon, one of the inspectors, has been appointed Chief Inspector from the 1st January, 1906. He is relieved of practically all magisterial functions, and his duties are to travel along the Rand from east to west, to bring the various inspectors into touch with each other, and to keep the Superintendent informed as to all that is going on. Mr. Purdon has already proved his usefulness and justified his selection for this work.

11. I have said that, in spite of all the opportunities which are afforded to the Chinese labourers for bringing their grievances to light, the chief difficulty with which the inspectors of the Foreign Labour Department have to contend is the reticence manifested by persons who are believed to have been aggrieved. This reticence is usually manifested where a coolie has been ill-treated or is believed to have been ill-treated by his fellow workmen, or by the Chinese compound police.

12. The Chinese compound police are men recruited by the mining companies as indentured labourers. For the most part they have served either in the British Army at Weihaiwei or in the Chinese Army. They come over with the coolies and assist in maintaining order among them on the voyage. It is largely due to their efforts that the disembarkation and entraining at Durban of ship-loads of raw coolies, numbering on an average some two thousand, are effected with the promptitude and order to which everyone who has witnessed these proceedings bears testimony. On arrival at the mines the Chinese police are told off by their employers to maintain order in the compounds generally, to see, for instance, that sanitary and other regulations are obeyed, that the shifts turn out punctually to work, and that the gates and other parts of the compounds are properly guarded. The Chinese police have, of course, no legal powers; their authority is that vested in them by the mine management over the coolies on the mine. On an average one Chinese policeman is employed for every hundred coolies; thus a compound containing three thousand coolies is, generally speaking, controlled by one white man assisted by thirty police. Having regard to the number of men usually employed in other walks of life in controlling large bodies of men, this is a number which, in the interest of the coolies themselves, cannot be considered excessive.

13. It speaks very highly indeed both for the police and for the coolies that order has been maintained as well as it has been.

14. It is not to be denied that authority has in some cases been upheld by arbitrary and unwarrantable means. It was not to be expected that a Chinese policeman would never arrogate to himself the position of a petty tyrant, yet it is, of course, impossible to deal with cases of oppression by the Chinese police of coolies placed under their charge unless specific cases are brought to light, and it is unavoidable that in spite of all the vigilance of the inspectors of the Foreign Labour Department, some such cases should escape detection.

15. When differences arise between the coolies in the compound, or when the Chinese police exert their authority in a reasonable manner for the preservation of order, it would be unwise for any outside authority to interfere, even in the improbable event of the matter coming to the knowledge of that authority.

16. Popular opinions is, as a rule, an adequate safeguard against the abuse of authority; moreover, in a compound, any serious abuse of authority by the Chinese police would infallibly bring its own retribution at the hands of the aggrieved coolies.

17. The Chinese police are no more perfect than any other human beings. In some cases they have been guilty of selling opium and other articles to coolies, of lending money to them at usurious rates of interest, or of receiving bribes for winking at irregularities, but the resentment which would be excited among the coolies themselves should the police resort to use oppression to recover what they considered to be due to them as the result of such practices is the best security against such oppression.

18. All things considered, I am not of opinion that the Chinese police have, on the whole, acted in an oppressive manner towards the coolies, nor do I believe that it is the opinion of the coolies that they have done so. The foregoing observations will elucidate what I believe to be the explanation of the somewhat vague allegations of flogging practised by the Chinese police, to which you refer in your telegram. It appears to me that what is termed "flogging" is not punishment administered under authority, but the settlement of differences arising among the Chinese themselves according to their own methods. If two Chinese have a quarrel which they settle among themselves by fighting and one of them get beaten, the last thing which either desires is the interference of authority; the beaten party, as a rule, declines to give any information with regard to the matter. Recognising that the treatment which they have received is just according to their own ideas, they wish to hear no more of the matter. If they felt that the treatment which they had received was unjust they would surely come forward and complain, but when, as in the case referred to in my telegram, No. 1, of January 10th,* the aggrieved coolie refuses to institute a prosecution or to give any information on which a prosecution might be based, it is impossible for the Foreign Labour Department or any other authority to take any useful action. It must be remembered that to secure convictions the evidence brought forward must be such as will satisfy the requirements of British judicial procedure. In such cases this is almost impossible to obtain; while a prosecution of a guilty person which fails owing to insufficient evidence is worse than useless owing to the bad moral effect produced by it. On one occasion the Superintendent of Foreign Labour discovered a case of a coolie who had been beaten by two Chinese on a mine; the coolie acknowledged that he had been justly punished for starting a fight at the head of a shaft, said that he had no grievance, and declined to prosecute; however, he gave the names of the two men who had beaten him, and Mr. Jamieson summoned them before him. They unhesitatingly affirmed that the coolie's story was perfectly correct, but pleaded instructions received from the white controller. All three men swore affidavits as to what had taken place, and Mr. Jamieson instituted proceedings against the controller, who has since left the Transvaal. When the coolies were brought up in court the evidence broke down under cross-examination, and the magistrate dis-

* No. 32.

missed the charge. I give this merely as an instance of the difficulty of securing such evidence in connection with the troubles which occasionally arise among the Chinese themselves as will lead to a conviction. Flogging as a punitive measure administered under extra legal authority has been entirely stopped; but if, for instance, in a room on a compound the inmates discover that one of their number has been thieving and then set upon him and beat him, it is obviously impossible to secure their conviction in a court of law if the thief declines to prosecute.

19. That the Chinese labourers are, on the whole, contented with their lot is, I think, shown by the figures of desertions which have taken place during the past few months. The precautions which have been taken to guard against desertions by the adoption of special measures for the police supervision of the Witwatersrand area, and by the institution of a regular weekly roll call on all mines in which Chinese labourers are employed, will be familiar to you from the communications which I have addressed to your predecessor, but the main security after all against desertion is that the labourers should be contented with the conditions under which they live and work.

20. Now the total number of convictions of Chinese labourers for desertion in the month of November last was 399, in October last 338, in September last 434.

21. The figures of the roll call held on Sunday, the 14th instant, showed that 580 labourers were absent without permits.

22. This is about the average number found to be absent from roll call each week, but I wish to point out that these absences from roll call are no more necessarily desertions than are the absences of school boys from names calling.

23. Having regard to the fact that according to the latest figures there are now 47,267 Chinese labourers employed on the Witwatersrand, these figures of desertions and of absence from the weekly roll call cannot, I think, be regarded as in any way extraordinary. But if, notwithstanding the ample opportunities which the Chinese are given of ventilating their grievances, notwithstanding the efforts made both by the Government and by the mine managements to secure their good treatment, and notwithstanding the opinion which I have expressed to you that these efforts have been successful, His Majesty's Government are still not convinced that everything that is possible is being done to secure the proper administration of the Foreign Labour Ordinance, I earnestly hope that the proposal referred to in your telegram that a strictly impartial commission should be appointed by His Majesty's Government for the investigation of the whole question of the treatment of Chinese labourers, will be adopted.

24. As I have reminded you, in my telegram of the 18th January, No. 2,* this is a proposal which I myself made and strongly supported while your predecessor was still in office. I know that the Departments of the Transvaal Government concerned would welcome such a commission as tending to set at rest any doubts which may exist as to whether they are honestly fulfilling the duties with which they are charged. I know that the mine managements would welcome it for they have nothing to fear from it; while if the assurances that the coolies are not ill-treated, given by those who have expert local knowledge of the subject, fail to carry conviction to public opinion at home, it is only by the report of such a commission that doubts will be dispelled, and the stories told by irresponsible and sometimes, I fear, malicious calumniators of the mining industry be authoritatively refuted. It is a simple matter to find material for sensational stories, if those concerned are indifferent to the feelings of their fellow-countrymen, and are willing to imply in them the absence of any love of justice or liberty, but, because these stories fail before the ordinary legal tests, it is not just to blame the administration for the absence of convictions.

25. I feel bound to add here that, although I fully recognise your anxiety to receive specific assurances that the arrangements for the protection of the Chinese coolies, and for ensuring their proper treatment are as perfect as it is possible to make them, the Superintendent of Foreign Labour deeply resents the insinuations

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* No. 37.

made by irresponsible persons that the coolies are ill-treated, which insinuations imply that he fails in his duty of seeing that their treatment is good. He also feels, not unnaturally, that too much of the time which he ought to devote to his primary duty of looking after the welfare of the coolies entrusted to his charge is taken up with preparing statistical information and answering questions addressed to him by His Majesty's Government, which questions seem to imply that, in spite of all his efforts to re-organize the work of his office, and to contend with the numerous difficulties with which he has to deal, His Majesty's Government are still not satisfied that he is doing all in his power to fulfil his duties, or at least that they are not satisfied that his efforts have been successful. I think that the work of Mr. Jamieson and his inspectors deserves every encouragement from, and generous recognition by, His Majesty's Government. The Attorney-General also hopes that His Majesty's Government will accept his assurance that no pains are spared either by himself or by his department to secure that in all cases of ill-treatment of one man by another the offender shall be brought to justice wherever sufficient evidence exists to warrant a prosecution, and I ought to add that he strongly resents the implication which has been involved in more than one published statement, that he could possibly act otherwise.

26. Your telegram further enquires as to the wages which are being earned by Chinese and native labourers. In reply to this question I enclose a table which has been prepared by the Mines Department showing the numbers of native and Chinese labourers in the employment of the Witwatersrand Gold Mining Companies, the number at work, the number off work, the amount of wages earned by them, and the average monthly wages of each during the year 1905. You will notice that the average wages earned by the natives during the calendar year 1905, namely, £2 11s. 9½d. per month, only falls very slightly short of the £2 12s. shown as being the average monthly rate of native wages in all Transvaal gold mines for the statistical year 1904-5 in the annual report of the Government Mining Engineer for the year ended 30th June, 1905.* In considering the lower wage paid to the Chinese, it must be remembered that the figures include wages paid to a number of newly arrived consignments of coolies who could not, in the first months of their employment, be expected to earn so much as could be obtained by experienced workers or as they themselves subsequently would be earning by obtaining piece work. Specimens of the piece work contracts made with Chinese coolies were forwarded to your predecessor in my despatch of 28th August, together with general information with regard to such contracts. The labourers on piece work contracts are paid for each day at regular intervals at the rate agreed upon in the contract, for the amount of work shown by their white shift bosses on their tickets to have been done by them during each day. The Superintendent of Foreign Labour informs me that he has no reason to believe that serious irregularities occur as regards the method of payment for work done under contract. All complaints made by coolies are carefully gone into, and are generally found to be due to misunderstanding. If 3,000 coolies are filing past a time office to receive their wages, it can readily be understood that payment of the whole cannot be suspended in order to allow for discussions with individuals as to the details of any deductions which may have been made from the amount due to them. Any coolies requiring fuller explanations of the amounts paid to them than can be given to them at the time, are told to take up their positions at the end of the file of coolies coming to receive their payments, and the required explanations are furnished to them when their fellows have received their wages. Lack of comprehension of deductions in respect of allotments made in China or advances made in South Africa has been a fruitful source of grievance, but every effort is being made to modify and simplify the allotment system at present in force.

27. You refer in your telegram to statements made in the enclosure to my despatch of the 18th December† as to the alleged practice of compelling Chinese to drill holes in blocks of stone in order to make up the 36 inches drilled, which is recognised as being a fair day's work, and also as to the allegations of coolies not being given work by their bosses. The practice of compelling coolies to drill 36 inches in blocks of stone on the surface is a disciplinary measure invented by

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* See Appendix III. † No. 29.

a certain mine manager in order to deal with men who persistently shirked their work.

28. It must be remembered that the management of a mine is compelled to pay every coolie not on piece work at the rate of one shilling or one shilling and six pence per day as the case may be, and in addition to feed him. Now, if a coolie not on piece work resolutely declines to drill more than two or three inches underground, an amount perfectly useless to his employer, it is hard to see how the employer is to protect himself. The coolies cannot be convicted for refusal to work as he does not decline to go down the shaft, but if, having gone down the shaft, he persistently shirks the work allotted to him, the mine management finds itself in the position of being compelled to pay and feed him for nothing. The manager to whom I have referred came to the conclusion that if a coolie declined to do what could reasonably be regarded as a fair day's work underground he should at least do an equivalent amount of work above ground in order to counteract the bad example which his successful avoidance of work underground would otherwise set to the other coolies.

29. The measure was undoubtedly a disciplinary one, but I cannot see that there was anything illegal in the management calling upon a coolie to perform a reasonable amount of work of the particular kind referred to instead of a reasonable amount of work of any other kind; nor can I see that any injustice to the coolie was involved.

30. A labourer not under indenture can be, and is, dismissed for laziness if he fails to perform his work satisfactorily, but the remedy of summarily dispensing with his services is not open to the employer of the confirmed indentured malingerer.

31. I cannot say that I think that the practice of setting a coolie to drill a hole in a block of stone in a compound under the eye of his employer when he has shirked his proper work underground is an unduly harsh remedy for laziness.

32. The question as to white shift bosses not giving certain coolies work is easily answered. The white shift bosses are themselves under contract, and naturally only desire to have under them such coolies as will produce the best results; they avoid and pass over any who are known to be loafers or otherwise unsatisfactory. The matter is, however, purely one of competent mine management, as no mine captain will have any of his hands idle if he can find them any work to do.

33. You enquire whether any cases have been brought to the notice of the Superintendent where the rations prescribed under the form of contract have been withheld from the coolies. It is a fact that the Chamber of Mines some time ago took legal advice as to whether or not they would be within their rights in withholding rations from coolies who broke their contract by consistently refusing to do a fair day's work. The legal advice given to the Chamber was that they had such a right, but the mine owners have nevertheless voluntarily abstained from applying the principle that if a man will not work neither shall he eat, and no coolie has ever complained to the Superintendent that his rations have been withheld.

34. In reply to your question as to the larger percentage of Chinese not at work on the last day of each month as compared with natives, I would again refer you to the enclosed table prepared by the Mines Department which I have mentioned in connection with the wages earned by natives and Chinese respectively. The figures in that table are taken from the official statistical returns furnished each month by the mining companies in terms of Section 11 of the Mines Works and Machinery Regulations. In regard to labour the statistical forms ask for two definite figures, namely:—

(1) The number of natives and Chinese in employment on the last day of each month, and

(2) The number actually working on the last full working day of each month.

The percentage not at work is calculated on the difference between these numbers. You will see that the percentage of Chinese off work is consistently higher than the percentage of natives off work. That does not mean that a specially high number of Chinese are absent from work on the last days of each month only, but that the returns, in the form in which they are furnished, show a higher number of Chinese than of natives not at work during the whole of each month. The principal causes of the higher percentages of Chinese off work appear to be as follows:—

(1) From statements furnished monthly by the Director of Prisons it is found that the average percentage of the Chinese labourers in gaol during 1905 was 1·6. This figure is included in the percentage off work because the Chinese labourers being indentured the mines return monthly their full complement as being in their employment. The natives, on the other hand, being engaged on a different form of contract are struck off the register of employees if they are absent for more than a certain number of days in gaol or in hospital away from the mine.

(2) A larger percentage of Chinese than of natives work underground. In the statistical year 1904-5 the respective percentages of Chinese and natives working underground was 79 per cent. and 67 per cent. Now, accidents happen more often underground than on the surface. In the period referred to the percentage of fatalities which occurred underground was 86 per cent. of the total number of fatalities, and thus the relative number of accidents among Chinese is naturally greater than among natives. Consequently a relatively larger number of Chinese than of natives are at any one time in hospital suffering from the effects of accidents.

35. In the opinion of the Medical Officer of Health for the Transvaal the Chinese do not recover so rapidly from wounds as natives do, owing to their greater liability to septic infection when under treatment; thus, the Chinese who have suffered accidents on an average remain longer in hospital than the natives.

36. A Chinese labourer in hospital would show in the returns as being in employment but off work, while, as before stated, a native labourer in hospital away from the mine on which he was employed is not shown as being in employment.

37. I have endeavoured to deal as fully as I can within the limits of a despatch with the various questions raised in your telegram, and I will forward the report from the Attorney-General already alluded to as soon as it has been received.

I have, &c.,
SELBORNE,
Governor.

Enclosure in No. 70.

Witwatersrand Gold Mines.

Month.	Coloured Persons in employ.		Coloured Persons at work.		Percentage off work.		Amount earned by		Remarks.
	Natives.	Chinese.	Natives.	Chinese.	Natives.	Chinese.	Natives.	Chinese.	
1905.							£	£	
January	82,847	27,222	76,473	24,480	7·694	10·073	203,295	37,668	
February	90,178	30,046	84,082	26,912	6·760	10·430	*200,192	39,207	
March	96,735	34,335	89,004	30,582	7·992	10·931	237,320	54,398	
April	98,598	35,146	89,697	30,261	9·028	13·900	*220,201	53,545	
May	97,310	38,111	89,214	33,860	8·320	11·154	232,837	64,878	
June	95,309	41,340	87,477	35,953	8·217	13·031	222,667	67,388	Average monthly wage during the year :—
July	94,292	43,191	85,679	38,362	9·136	11·181	220,648	73,904	£ s. d.
August	90,998	44,409	84,361	39,834	7·294	10·704	224,027	79,255	*Natives* ... 2 11 9·51
September	88,610	44,538	81,909	39,397	7·562	11·543	215,282	76,567	*Chinese* ... 1 17 7·13
October	87,119	45,956	80,707	40,018	7·360	12·921	211,762	81,292	
November	86,759	45,856	80,008	40,059	7·781	12·642	209,614	82,272	
December	84,254	47,264	77,179	42,199	8·397	10·722	206,720	82,719	
Totals and averages	91,084	39,801	83,816	35,160	7·980	11·662	2,604,615	793,083	

* The Chinese percentages for February and April are calculated on numbers which do not include drafts which arrived a day or two before the close of the month but which were not put to work until the following month.

No. 71.

Governor Sir W. F. HELY-HUTCHINSON (Cape Colony) to The EARL OF ELGIN.

(Received February 17, 1906.)

My Lord, Government House, Cape Town, January 29, 1906.

I find that I have omitted to supplement my telegram, No. 1, of 12th January,* transmitting to you a resolution passed at a meeting of members of the Afrikander Bond and others, presided over by Mr. J. H. Hofmeyr, protesting against certain statements which appeared in a London newspaper with regard to the results to be anticipated in the event of interference with Chinese immigration into the Transvaal, by sending you a report of the proceedings at the meeting.

2. I now send press reports of the proceedings and copies of newspaper articles† which appeared on the subject.

"South African News," 10th January, 1906.
"South African News," 10th January, 1906.
"Cape Times," 10th January, 1906.
"Cape Argus," 10th January, 1906.

3. The proceedings at the deputation were formal. In consenting to forward the resolution, I told the deputation that I had read the reports of the speeches delivered at the meeting with attention, and that I would see that copies were communicated to you.

I have, &c.,
WALTER HELY-HUTCHINSON.

Enclosure in No. 71.

"The South African News," Wednesday, January 10, 1906.

Cutting the Painter.

Loyalty and Chinese Labour.

Defaming the Africanders.

English Press Misrepresentation.

Protest by Influential South Africans.

Deputation to Wait upon the Governor.

At the invitation of the Cape Town branch of the Bond about 150 local Bondsmen and their friends gathered at the Huguenot Hall, Queen Victoria-street, yesterday afternoon, to protest against the misrepresentations which had appeared in the English Press to the effect that the Africander people were desirous of "cutting the painter" unless all restrictions against the importation of Chinese labour were removed. There were present, among others: Messrs. Hofmeyr, Merriman, Sauer, Malan, Jac. Graaff, M.L.C., Mr. Abraham Fischer, formerly chairman of the First Volksraad of the Free State; Mr. Edward Rooth, of Pretoria; Drs. Te Water and Forsyth, Mr. Vincent van der Byl, Prof. Fremantle, and Messrs. C. C. de Villiers, J. W. Donovan, C. C. Silberbauer, F. J. Centlivres, A. Benning, Standen, and C. Chiappini.

The Hon. J. H. Hofmeyr, who presided, said that the circular was sent to Bondsmen, but it was not, in the strict sense, a Bond meeting, for "friends" were included in the invitation to be present, and any of those present who were not Bondsmen would be permitted to speak, and to move resolutions. The circular dealt with attempts which were being made to give the people of England the impression that if the importation of Chinese was interfered with the Dutch-speaking people would combine with a section of the uitlander population and secede from the Empire. The following was an extract from an English newspaper: "English and Boers, the hitherto loyal and the permanently disloyal, will now combine to 'cut the painter' and politely and unanimously usher the British garrison and flag out of South Africa. This must be the upshot unless the electors dispossess the Liberals." (Laughter.) He was born a British subject, and, without protesting his loyalty, he would say that the cause of Chinese labour was of all causes the most unlikely to lead to a combined rebellion of the mine magnates and the Dutch-speaking Africanders. (Applause.)

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* No. 34. † Not printed.

The Resolution.

Mr. Vincent van der Byl then moved the following resolution:—

"This meeting, having seen (*a*) that the following has been published in an influential organ of the London Press: 'English and Boers, the hitherto loyal and the permanently disloyal, will combine to cut the painter, and politely and unanimously usher the British garrison and flag out of South Africa. This must be the upshot unless the electors dispossess the Liberals'; and (*b*) that these words are believed in influential circles; hereby emphatically declares that they are without any, even the slightest, foundation, that they are based on no facts whatsoever, and that they originate only in the fertile imagination of the writers from whose brain they emanate; wherefore this meeting decides to take steps to make this known to the British people, and to request the British Government not to allow themselves to be influenced by such tales (vertelsels) in their policy regarding the immigration of Chinese into South Africa, being convinced that the policy which they have already outlined in this connection will in no way lead to dissatisfaction or to separatist movements on the part of the Africander people."

The Government's Chinese Policy.

Continuing, Mr. Van der Byl said that in view of the misrepresentations which appeared in English organs he thought it was their duty to place their views on record. The cry of the English Press was that there existed a "cut the painter" policy. He was no hypocrite, and was not going to say that under no circumstances was rebellion justifiable, but the Africanders were agreed that the attitude taken up by the British Government on the Chinese question had in no way caused them to wish to "cut the painter." The principal reason of that party for saying that they desired to cut the painter was because the present British Government was interfering with the internal affairs of the Transvaal, and that party held that the Transvaal should look after its own affairs. Which, he asked, of the past or present Governments, had interfered with the Transvaal most? The late Government, which had on the representations of a small faction of the Transvaal people allowed the Chinese to flow into the country, or the present Government, which had stopped that flow, and had said it would give to the country Responsible Government, when it could decide whether it would have Chinese labour or not? They would agree with him that the present Government had commenced well. (Hear, hear.) It had initiated the policy of leaving the people alone. Let them hope that the Government would be influenced by the representations of the people who represented the country, and not by a few mining men. (Applause.)

Mr. Malan, M.L.A.

Mr. Malan, M.L.A., in seconding, said he found that in 1903 a resolution was carried in the House of Assembly, whereby the House declared itself strongly against the importation of Chinese labour. (Hear, hear.) In 1904, on the motion of Mr. Jagger, that resolution was confirmed—(hear, hear)—without a division. The introduction of Chinese was objected to not only into the Cape Colony but into the whole of South Africa. Since then his feelings on the subject had undergone no change. The permanent interests of South Africa he regarded as being of far greater worth than the accelerated development of the mines. It was on a question of proportion as to whether the development of the mines was accelerated or carried out with less speed. For his part he wished that the development would be slower, for then there might still be an opportunity of picking up some of the crumbs. It was for them to say that the assertion that they wished to throw aside their loyalty for the sake of the magnates was a defamation of the Africander people. (Hear, hear.) The resolution showed that they were of the same opinion yet, as when the resolution was carried in Parliament. (Applause.)

Mr. Standen pointed out that the motion was confined to the Dutch Africander. He would like that amended and "English Africanders" included.

It was decided that the phrase be "Africanders of all nationalities."

Mr. Sauer said he was glad to be present. If he had had to draw up the resolution he would have worded it differently. He did not think it should deal with more than the importation of Chinese into the country. The necessity of asserting their loyalty did not seem quite clear to him. They were accustomed to disloyalty by people upon whom that article sat lightly. Those were the men who thought rebellion justifiable if their pockets were concerned, but rebellion by young fellows impelled by mistaken but generous feelings to be a colossal crime. No great weight, he considered, should be attached to assertions by such people. As a body the Dutch had been from the beginning totally opposed to the introduction of Chinese. (Applause.) In the Orange River Colony it was the same, and if the people who were so anxious to air the views of the Dutch people in England had taken the trouble to find out, they would have found that the whole of the Dutch portion of the Transvaal, as represented by Het Volk, was likewise strongly opposed. Shortly before the elections a resolution was carried in Parliament in opposition to Chinese labour unanimously—perhaps partly owing to party reasons—unanimously, and later on another one. If Parliament met to-morrow it would be found that a like resolution would be carried unanimously. (Hear, hear.) Some of the members might not be sincere, but this only showed how strongly the people outside the walls of the House were against Chinese. The majority of the English people in the Cape Colony were equally opposed to Chinese with the Dutch. (Hear, hear.) As to the Orange River Colony,

the people were also patriotic and sensible and honest and the feeling was the same. He had spoken with persons connected with the mines and they had said that it was a very doubtful experiment. There were other reasons, socially and politically, which far outweighed the advantages of Chinese labour. He believed that even the Liberal Government would find it difficult to deal satisfactorily with the question, and he was afraid it would be difficult to repatriate the Chinese, and if the number were increased by hundreds of thousands repatriation would become impossible. If the Chinese became a permanent population it would be the greatest curse which had ever fallen on the country. He would support the motion. No advantages had been derived from the importation of Chinamen. In South Africa matters were sufficiently difficult and complicated by the coloured races. He hoped the resolution would be conveyed to England so that the people there could see what their views were. One misfortune they suffered from was that there were so many spokesmen for them in England—(laughter)—and until they did away with that system of representation in England they would always be misconstrued. (Applause.)

Back to China.

Mr. Merriman said that although that meeting was small it certainly had behind it the feeling of tens of thousands of people of all races. (Hear, hear.) From the beginning they had protested against Chinese labour because it was felt that it would demoralise the population of South Africa. In the face of all their protestations the British Government had introduced the Chinese Ordinance and forced it upon the Transvaal, the people of which country were bound hand and foot as they had no say in the matter. The late Government had had the impudence to say that it was done by the wish of the people of the Transvaal. It was difficult to find words to characterise those statements which were deliberate perversions of the truth. Those wretched people (the Chinese) were forced into the country to satisfy the greed of a section of the rich people—(hear, hear)—who wanted to be richer and to remove any chance of a European or English population. A friend recently from the Transvaal and one who had taken the trouble of making inquiries had found that many of the men had been lured out here by misrepresentations. Many had been artisans and were not accustomed to do unskilled labour. Unless the further importation of Chinese were stopped it would be found that those men would in time fill posts now held by whites. In California, he had read, the Chinese were a hard-working, industrious and honest class of people, but they would not work as slaves. His policy was "Back to China, bag and baggage, no matter what the cost." (Applause.) Sooner or later English opinion would insist on the removal of the restrictions on the coolies, then good-bye to the chances of the white man. It might be said that the Chinese were here and could not be got rid of. That was where the danger lay. A new feeling had been created in China which was no longer merely a fossilised part of the world. Events in Japan had aroused China where the feeling existed of "China for the Chinese," which he thought was a patriotic feeling, but don't, he pleaded, let it become "South Africa for the Chinese." So let everyone who had the interests of South Africa at heart not become apathetic, let them work to get rid of those people, let them work to strengthen the hands of the British Government. (Applause.) He wished the resolution had been ten thousand times stronger, and it would then only express his feelings. Since the arrival of the Chinese there had been nothing but outrages, plundering and murders, and all was taken cynically on the Rand. He objected to the doctrine that the gold mines constituted South Africa. No, the people were South Africa, and they protested against the Chinese invasion. But there were four millions of South Africans who were not represented. He referred to the coloured races, and no one had said a word for them. All their efforts to raise the coloured man would fail if they allowed the Chinese to swarm over the country. He hoped the resolution would have some effect on the English people, and show that those infamous lies had not the smallest foundation in fact. (Applause.)

Orange River Colony Opinion.

Mr. Abraham Fischer, in response to cries, said he was a friend who sympathised with them in this matter. The Orange River Colony had done what it could in protesting against Chinese labour. In the days of the Free State Government they had passed an Act to prohibit Asiatic immigration. (Hear, hear.) He defied anyone to prove that the people of the Orange River Colony were in favour of Chinese. They had an example in Natal of what a curse the coolie could become. That land (Natal) was made for the white man, and had now become a "coolie land." It was the sacred duty of all Africanders to see that their country, which had become dearer to them, did not become a "bastard" country. He hoped that the voice of the meeting would be heard. His heartiest sympathies were with all that had passed at that meeting. (Applause.)

Mr. Edward Rooth said that the Chinese question was a burning and an important one, and one which he hoped they in the Transvaal could settle for themselves. They objected to the question being used for party purposes in England. They were well able to look after themselves. (Hear, hear.) If the Johannesburg people attempted to carry out their threats of severing the country from England it would be found that the old inhabitants of the Transvaal would be against them. (Hear, hear.) They had accepted the British flag at Vereeniging, and would support that flag against any gang of cosmopolitan financiers. (Applause.) Mr. Standen said that he was sorry that his country (England) had for a time been debauched and deluded by the financiers.

Mr. J. W. Donovan pointed out that the people who had been hardest hit in the Transvaal were the people who had no voice there, for he understood that the coloured man had no vote. The Labour Council of Cape Town had been unanimous in its opposition to Chinese labour.

They should all support Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman, who had not taken long to make up his mind.

The Deputation to the Governor.

Mr. Van Heerde moved that a deputation be appointed to interview the Governor of the Cape Colony, and lay the request before him that the resolution be transmitted by cable, to England, to His Majesty's Government.

Mr. Standen seconded, and the motion was carried. Messrs. the Hon. J. H. Hofmeyr, the Hon. J. Graaff, M.L.C., Vincent van der Byl, and the secretary of the meeting, Mr. Volsteedt, were elected as the deputation.

The Chairman intimated that a general meeting would be held in the course of a few days, when the question of Chinese labour would once more be discussed.

Mr. Merriman proposed a vote of thanks to the chairman, and expressed the hope that he (the chairman) would more often come to the fore in such matters. (Hear, hear.)

The vote being seconded, the proceedings terminated.

Appendix No. I.

Government Notice No. 1100 of 1905.

His Excellency the Acting Lieutenant-Governor, under the powers vested in him by Section 3 of Ordinance No. 54 of 1903, as amended by Section 2 of Ordinance No. 31 of 1905, has been pleased to approve the following amendment to the Regulations published under Government Notice No. 826 of 1903:—

Regulation No. 146 is amended by the addition of the following paragraphs:—

(5) No person shall use or cause or allow to be used in the mine any percussion machine drill, unless a water jet or spray or other means equally efficient is provided and used so as to prevent the escape of dust thereby caused into the air.

(6) After blasting in any end, rise, or other place no person shall return to that place until after the lapse of at least half-an-hour, unless the air in such place has been cleared of the dust and smoke arising from such blasting by efficient ventilation or other special means or unless an effective respirator or other apparatus is used to prevent the inhaling of such dust or smoke.

Blasting shall be so arranged that men working in other places shall be exposed as little as practicable to dust and smoke.

(7) In any place where development work is carried on no person shall remove or allow to be removed the rock broken, if dry and dusty, unless it has been effectively damped so as to prevent the escape of dust into the air during removal.

(8) All plant, material and other things necessary to enable the above rules to be carried out shall be provided and maintained in working order.

By Command of His Excelleney the Acting Lieutenant-Governor.

H. Weldon,
Commissioner of Mines.

Office of the Commissioner of Mines,
Johannesburg, December 18, 1905.

Appendix No. II.

Transvaal Native Affairs Department.

Annual Reports for the Year Ended 30th June, 1905.

Native Affairs.

Annual Report.—1st July, 1904, to 30th June, 1905.*

The Administration of Native Affairs was carried on during the past year in accordance with the general line of policy indicated in the Annual Reports of the Department for 1901-2, 1902-3, and 1903-4.

It was obviously undesirable to embark upon any material changes in view of the appointment of the South African Native Affairs Commission which met for the first time in Cape Town on the 29th September, 1903, and concluded its labours on the 30th January, 1905.

It had all along been recognised that such important questions as those which relate to the tenure of land, the settlement of natives on Government and private farms, and the administration of native locations required mature consideration before they could be dealt with by new or further legislation. These matters have from time to time been prominently brought to notice, and although their postponement has necessarily been attended with many difficulties and inconvenience, there can be no doubt that incalculable advantage has been gained by preserving a free hand for the Transvaal to shape its legislation upon the basis of the recommendations of a Commission expressly appointed and empowered to conduct an exhaustive investigation into all the present conditions of native life from a wide South African point of view.

Now that the report of that Commission has been before the public for some time, this opportunity may be taken for briefly referring to its conclusions upon some of those problems which are of more immediate and particular concern to this Colony.

Before proceeding to an expression of the views of the Commissioner for Native Affairs, however, it should be understood that no measures can be taken by the Administration until the representative form of Government which is to be established under the new Constitution has come into being.

In any case it will be necessary to exercise every caution in the consideration of reforms involving radical changes of policy, of administration, or of existing native institutions and customs.

The older Colonies of the Cape and Natal have learnt by experience to recognise that it is unwise to press forward too hastily with a policy of progress in the direction of modern civilisation. Time alone can be expected, under the gradual influence and civilizing agency of the

* Of the Annexures to this Report V. only is printed here.

European community and of the Administration, to wean the native from his savage state and bring him generally under the common laws of the country. Any undue haste would inevitably lead to an unsettlement of the native mind and possibly to alienation instead of sympathy with the Government.

The question of foremost importance is:—

The Tenure of Land.—Though a small section of the native population wish to acquire land and alter their conditions, the masses are living under the communal system and are neither ready nor anxious for change. Time is required to ascertain whether any natives now in occupation of tribal land are desirous of having individual tenure, and when that time arrives such a form of tenure should only be regarded as an experiment and introduced in selected areas prior to which legislation would of course be necessary.

The most suitable parts to begin may possibly be in the locations on the western border of the Transvaal which are more or less isolated.

Meanwhile a Commission has been appointed to investigate matters in regard to existing locations and to report whether other locations should be granted in terms of pledges by the late Government or Treaties with His Majesty's Government.

The general scope of the duties of the Commission may be gathered from the following terms of reference:—

(*a*) To make recommendations as to the boundaries, where undefined, of existing locations granted to Native Tribes;

(*b*) To investigate the claims to locations on the part of other tribes in respect of promises made to them by the late Government, and to report on the extent, and where such locations, if any, should be granted;

(*c*) To ascertain what, if any, other tribes claim locations within the meaning of the Conventions of 1881 and 1884, and to recommend where, and to what extent, such should be granted; and

(*d*) To report on any questions arising out of these terms of reference.

A copy of the Memorandum in which the Commissioner for Native Affairs recommended the constitution of this Commission is appended hereto. (Annexure "A.")

Squatting.—This subject is in need of regulation. To eject or to summarily remove a large section of the native population now squatting on Crown and private lands would entail much distress and lead to trouble.

The present Squatters Law might possibly be amended or reconstructed upon the basis of the Cape Colony Law and Regulations recently issued, which provide that squatting, where held to be necessary or desirable, should only be allowed under Government sanction and control.

The following resolutions of the report are recommended for adoption in the Transvaal:—

"(1) That no native other than *bonâ fide* servant of the owner or occupier, with their families, should be permitted to live on private lands, except under Government sanction and control, and, further, that such sanction should only be given on proof that it is necessary or desirable, and, save in the case of labour tenants, should be subject to an adequate annual licence to be paid by the owner or occupier of the land. The word 'families' does not include adult sons unless they themselves are *bonâ fide* servants.

"(2) That the main principles contained in the resolutions relating to locations on private property should be applied to natives on Crown lands other than those duly set apart as native reserves or locations, and that sanction for native occupation on such Crown lands should not be given unless an adequate rent is charged to the native occupier, based upon the producing value of the land.

"(3) That contracts of tenancy exceeding one year should be in writing and duly attested.

"(4) That, so far as may be practicable, lands held by municipalities or other public bodies or societies which are occupied by natives should be subject to regulations similar to those applicable to private or Crown lands, as already recommended by this Commission."

In the meantime efforts are being made to procure full information with regard to native locations, other than those specifically set apart and recognised, on Crown farms and private land.

Purchase of Land by Natives.—Up to the present time the policy has been to continue that observed under the late Republic, viz., that in approved cases the Government should take and hold in trust land purchased by natives as indicated in the Conventions of 1881 and 1884 between His Majesty's Government and the South African Republic.

The Commissioner for Native Affairs shares the views expressed in the Report to the effect that there will be many administrative and social difficulties created by the multiplication of a number of native units scattered throughout a white population and owning the land of the country equally with them, and that such a situation cannot fail to accentuate feelings of race prejudice and animosity with unhappy results.

He therefore supports the resolution of the Commission as to the necessity for certain restrictions upon purchase, and considers it would be well to adopt the following recommendations for the assignment of areas within which the natives may purchase and hold land at pleasure:—

"(1) That purchase by natives should in future be limited to certain areas to be defined by legislative enactment.

"(2) That purchase of land which may lead to tribal, communal or collective possession or occupation by natives should not be permitted."

Native Locations.—The principles laid down in the following recommendations, particularly Sub-Sections 1 and 2, as regards the early definition and delimitation of all lands dedicated and set apart with a view to finality in the provision of land for the native population, should clearly be accepted by and applied to this Colony:—

"(1) That the time has arrived when the lands dedicated and set apart, or to be dedicated and set apart, as locations, reserves, or otherwise, should be defined, delimited and reserved for the natives by legislative enactment.

"(2) That this should be done with a view to finality in the provision of land for the native population and that thereafter no more land should be reserved for native occupation.

"(3) The creation, subject to adequate control, of native locations for residential purposes near labour centres or elsewhere, on proof that they are needed.

"(4) That the right of occupation of the lands so defined and set apart shall be subject to a condition of forfeiture in case of rebellion."

Tribal System.—It is evident from the findings of the Commission that the abolition of the tribal system and chieftainship should be left to time and evolution towards civilization, assisted by legislation when necessary and administrative methods.

It is acknowledged on all sides to be inadvisable to break down or sweep away existing native laws and customs, which are interwoven with the entire social system, in so far as they are not repugnant to the general principles of humanity and civilization.

The Commission's recommendation that under no consideration should natives be prevented from freely taking their cases into Court without the interference of agents-at-law, is one which is entirely supported by this Department.

Urban Locations for Natives.—The best means of attracting natives to live and carry on continuous labour in urban areas is to improve the state of Urban Locations so far as to afford inducement to the natives to better their position and become accustomed to and contented with permanent employment. The locations everywhere admit of much improvement which the municipal authorities should take in hand.

It should be our aim to encourage the establishment in these locations of a respectable class and give them every opportunity to respect themselves and advance. The more they improve the more necessary it becomes for them to be continuous wage earners.

In such locations it will be well to set apart an area within which those who desire it may purchase their own holdings and gain fixity of tenure, which will inspire in them the desire to improve their surroundings and general conditions.

The erection by local authorities of buildings for the accommodation of those who require it at low rents, the establishment of sound sanitary and healthy arrangements, together with easy and cheap facilities for movement to their sphere of labour, are aims of the greatest importance.

Education.—As pointed out by the Commission it would be undesirable to unduly force the extension of education among the native population. But where there is a demand for it and where the natives themselves are willing to contribute in some measure towards the cost of supplying it, their efforts should be aided and directed by Government, whilst grants-in-aid should be made in no unstinted way, subject of course to such conditions and regulations as it may be deemed necessary to impose.

Taxation.—In view of the fact that there is such a demand for labour throughout the Transvaal and that good wages are easily obtainable by those who are willing to learn and perform any work required of them, there appears to be no need for any alteration of the taxation now imposed.

It has been felt, however, that agriculture has in the past few years suffered considerably from drought and other causes, and that the natives have sought and still seek higher wages than the farmer can afford to pay.

It is of the highest importance that farmers should be able to rely upon continuity of labour, and that labourers should be attracted to dwell permanently upon farms in fixed and continuous employment. If so employed it is not easy for them to go to markets where high wages are offered.

It is worthy of consideration, therefore, whether all farm natives in *bonâ fide* and continuous employment should not be exempt from payment of the full tax of £2 now imposed by law and rendered liable only for a reduced tax so long as they may be so employed.

Inspection of Districts.—In consequence of his absence on the Native Affairs Commission, it was not possible for the Commissioner to undertake any general visit of the districts for the purpose of becoming more closely in touch and acquainted with the natives, and of affording them facilities for personally addressing representations to him, of studying their local conditions, and of satisfying himself as to the administration of the general policy of the Government.

He took an opportunity, however, of making a short tour through the Lydenburg District, towards the end of April, when a satisfactory conference was held with the Magistrates and Sub-Native Commissioners of that and of the Middelburg District.

Transfer of Head Offices from Johannesburg to Pretoria.—It was decided towards the end of June to transfer the headquarters of this Department from Johannesburg to Pretoria, and the removal was actually effected on the 19th of that month.

When the Department was created in 1901 the importance of the labour question on the mines made it a matter of necessity that the head office should be located in Johannesburg. The organization of an effective machinery for the supervision and control of such a large number of natives as are employed by the mining industry required the most careful and

constant attention, and the success of that work depended upon our being in the closest possible touch with the representatives of the industry. And although the reasons which then demanded the presence of the head office in Johannesburg have to a great extent disappeared, the control of the native labour there still constitutes such a very important branch of our work that it will be necessary for the Commissioner or Secretary for Native Affairs to devote at least one day a week to that work in Johannesburg for some time to come.

The principal functions of the Commissioner for Native Affairs are those which attach to his office as a member of the Executive and Legislative Councils. In the former capacity he takes an active part in the deliberation of all such affairs of the Colony as may require the consideration of the Lieutenant-Governor in Council, and in the latter he represents the Government upon all legislative and political questions affecting the native population and the administration of their affairs.

It is essential, therefore, that the Commissioner should have his headquarters at the seat of Government, which is in Pretoria. Under the circumstances the policy of the Government in regard to Native Affairs and the control of the whole district administration can unquestionably be directed with more advantage from the seat of Government—wherever it might be—than from any other centre.

2.—District Administration.

As foreshadowed in the report of last year, the Administration of Native Affairs in the Ermelo, Potchefstroom, Lichtenburg and Heidelberg Districts has been conducted by the Resident Magistrates, and in the Wakkerstroom, Middelburg, Lydenburg, Barberton and Waterberg Districts by Sub-Native Commissioners under the control of the Resident Magistrates.

While this arrangement has worked well in certain districts, it has been found on the whole to be unsatisfactory, because of the inability of the Magistrates, on account of their numerous other duties, to devote sufficient time and attention to the supervision of Native Affairs in their respective districts.

It was soon felt that the Department was losing touch with the natives in these districts, and consequently that effective control which is of such paramount importance in the administration of Native Affairs could not be maintained.

As the result of representations to the Government it has been decided to reinstate Sub-Native Commissioners in certain districts during the current financial year, and the restoration of these officers may be expected to have beneficial results in every sphere of Native Administration.

Owing to the difficulty experienced in the collection of the Native Tax on the Witwatersrand, principally due to the presence of large numbers of alien natives, who, by length of residence and other circumstances, would appear to have established their domicile in this country, it was found necessary to appoint an additional Sub-Native Commissioner to deal with this work.

For financial reasons it was resolved, at the commencement of the year under review, to reduce the number of native messengers, although it was felt at the time that such a reduction might be prejudicial both to the cause of order and to the regular and prompt collection of revenue.

Results have shown that it was impossible for the District Officers to efficiently carry out the duties entrusted to them with the limited number of native messengers at their disposal, and authority was therefore obtained towards the end of the year for the employment of 64 additional native messengers.

The necessity of still further increasing the strength of this invaluable force is strongly urged by the District Officers, and is receiving consideration.

It may be noted that the jurisdiction of Resident Justices of the Peace has been consolidated under a new statute, viz.:—Ordinance 19 of 1904.

The judicial functions of the District Officers of this Department are, however, slightly affected by this change.

The reports of the Native Commissioners and Resident Magistrates administering Native Affairs in the districts are attached (Annexures "D" to "T").

3.—Native Petition upon the Transvaal Constitution.

On the 11th May a petition, purporting to have been signed by members of the United Political Associations, 46 chiefs, and 25,738 natives of the Transvaal, was presented to me for transmission to His Majesty the King.

For the reasons therein set forth the petitioners sought for a general protection of native interests by the Imperial Government under the new Constitution which is to be established next year. A copy of the petition is appended (Annexure "B").

A Memorandum has since been submitted to His Excellency the Governor upon the various questions which are more particularly referred to in illustration of the apprehensions entertained by the petitioners as to their future position under a representative form of Government with unrestricted control over the native population.

It is not apparent that the natives have any grounds for fearing that they will not receive fair and just treatment at the hands of the local legislature, nor is there any reason to believe that the white inhabitants of this Colony do not recognise their obligations and responsibilities towards the coloured races. Public opinion may be relied upon, when the time comes, to see that no undue advantage is taken of the present position of the Europeans towards the natives. On the contrary, it will probably be found that the tendency of future legislation will be to lay the broad foundations of a policy based on considerations in equitable relation to the varying interests of the white and coloured people.

4.—Native Chiefs.

It is with regret that the death of Chief Gopane, who exercised an exemplary influence over the Bahurutse tribe for many years, is recorded. Upon receipt of the notification of his death, which took place on the 26th September, a message was sent to Tom Mokgatla and his people, expressing sympathy with the tribe in the loss which it had suffered by the Chief's death, and in communicating that message the Sub-Commissioner was requested to make it known that the Government had always recognised, and that the officials of this Department had been deeply sensible of, the good services rendered by Gopane and of his loyal and upright conduct towards the Government which should serve as a good lesson to the tribe.

The death of another Chief of importance has also to be recorded, viz., that of Malakutu, of the Bapedi tribe, in the Pokwani district. According to native custom, the eldest son—Sekwatie—was nominated by the Councillors as Chief of the tribe in succession to his late father. In his death the natives have lost a kind and considerate Chief and the Government a loyal and faithful subject.

A third Chief, Nyumba Mabena, died in the Hamanskraal district on the 6th February. As this Chief had left no issue, the indunas of the tribe nominated Mbongo Mabena, his half brother and his next-of-kin, to succeed him in the chieftainship; but being a young man of little experience and influence it was decided to appoint Somrata (Mbongo's uncle) to manage the affairs of the tribe, with the chief councillors, for the time being.

The only other death which need be noted is that of the old Chief Moshwete, which occurred at the end of March, in the Lichtenburg district. Owing to his advanced age the affairs of the Barolong tribe had for a long time been managed by Aaron Moshwete, and this arrangement will continue pending the final appointment of a successor to the late Chief.

Considerable difficulty was experienced in dealing with the Chief Hans Masibi of the Mapela tribe in the Potgietersrust district. The whole conduct of this Chief during and since the war had been consistently unsatisfactory. It was reported that he had been guilty of, or directly responsible for, murder, public violence, insolvency, levying money under false pretences, cruel treatment of his people, and drunkenness. In all his dealings with the Sub-Native Commissioner he had been found to be disobedient and at all times evinced a passive resistance to orders and instructions.

The violence of his temper and intemperate habits alone (combined with his harmful influence over the tribe) unfitted him for any position of responsibility. It was decided, therefore, to depose and to deport him, but, before this decision could be carried out, he was arrested on a charge of incest, and while under arrest, it was discovered that he had completely lost his reason. He was thereupon removed to the Asylum where he now remains in confinement.

Upon the death of the Chief Magato, who had held considerable influence for many years over a large tract of country in the Northern Transvaal, he was succeeded in the Chieftainship of the Bavenda by his eldest son Mpefu, in the year 1895.

Owing to the contumacious and independent attitude assumed by this Chief towards the late Government, an expedition was sent against him in 1898.

After a short resistance Mpefu fled to Rhodesia where he was received and temporarily located by the Rhodesian Government.

During the late war Mpefu rendered good service to the British Military Authorities and was brought back to Zoutpansberg without the leave of this or of the Rhodesian Government.

In the interval matters relating to the tribe were managed by certain indunas and a younger brother named Sentumula.

Mpefu applied at intervals to return to his father's country, but during the process of resettlement of the natives it was considered undesirable that he should be allowed to do so.

The late Government had for many years contemplated beaconing off Magato's location, but it was never done, and just before the last war broke out a Commission was appointed to deal with it.

At the latter end of July, 1904, Mpefu returned to this country without permission. He, however, reported himself formally and submissively to the Native Commissioner at Pietersburg and pleaded for leave to go and live within his own rights with his own people.

As he had not been banished by the late Government and had suffered sufficient punishment by his exile in Rhodesia, and in view of the fact that his people were without a head and disorganised, his return was assented to by this Government subject to the following conditions:—

(1) That a limited location be clearly demarcated for the tribe.

(2) That he should be properly and authoritatively placed and informed where he was to reside and what his duties and obligations were.

(3) That he be warned that his settlement is of a provisional nature subject to his good behaviour and without prejudice to any land policy which the Government may hereafter deem fit to adopt.

(4) That he be not allowed under any circumstances to recall people living on farms or living with other Chiefs who formerly may have been his or his father's adherents, and that he should not have the right to settle within the area allowed him any persons whatever without the consent first had and obtained of the Native Commissioner.

A Commission was thereupon appointed to lay off a suitable location to which Mpefu and his people have since been removed.

Owing to the fact that a number of farms had already been allotted to Europeans by the late Government, and to other difficulties which need not be entered into here, it was not practicable to restore Mpefu to the actual lands which had been formerly occupied by him and his people.

The location which has now been assigned to the tribe, however, should be ample and well suited to all their requirements.

5.—Land.

A most important development of the Native land question issues from the decision of the Supreme Court in the application *ex parte* Tsewu.

It had been generally accepted that the transfer of fixed property in this Colony could not be registered in the name of a native, but that all land acquired by natives—either tribally or individually—was necessarily registered in trust for the actual owners. This condition was held to result from the terms of Article XIX. of the Convention of London, and of certain Volksraad Resolutions. It was decided, however, by the Supreme Court in the *ex parte* application referred to, that no statutory provision is in force which precludes a native from holding land in this country registered in his own name, and in consequence of this decision it would appear that as regards the acquisition and tenure of land the native is at the present time in the same position as the European. It is much to be feared that the release from tutelage in this direction will be followed by cases in which native tribes or communities will be exposed to considerable loss by reason of unscrupulous persons taking advantage of their ignorance. Such cases were not unknown when the natives enjoyed the protection afforded them by the compulsory intervention of a European in their behalf in all transactions relative to the ownership of land. This decision, which was given early in April, is of too recent date to allow of any observation as to its probable consequence as regards the extension of native ownership of land.

It has given rise, however, to wide discussion both in the Legislature and the public press. A motion adopted by the Legislative Council to the effect that the condition observed under the late Government should be reverted to, points to the introduction of legislation for this purpose.

On the 18th April the Commissioner for Native Affairs brought before the Executive Council the question of appointing a Commission to enquire into the numerous questions connected with the occupation of locations by the various native tribes. It was resolved to appoint a Commission consisting of three members and a Secretary, the terms of reference to which are quoted in the prefatory remarks of this Report.

There can be no doubt of the extreme importance of finally defining and disposing of the obligations in regard to the provision of land for native tribes to which the Government has succeeded, and it is hoped that this result may be effected by the Commission to be appointed.

Some ten farms have been registered to the Commissioner for Native Affairs in trust for native communities during the course of the year. These farms were purchased in common by the natives who occupy them. There has been no instance of the acquisition of land by individual natives, except in one case where a native purchased six township lots.

It has been decided to grant an area of Government land in the Zoutpansberg District as a location for the following of the Bavenda Chief Mpefu, whose return from Southern Rhodesia has already been referred to. When beaconed and surveyed, this land will constitute the location promised by the late Government to Magato, the father of Mpefu.

6.—Native Education.

A return of State-aided Schools is appended (Appendices Nos. 5 and 6).

There are 142 of such schools, and 7,814 pupils, with a staff of 222 teachers, giving an average of 35 pupils to each teacher.

A sum of £5,850 was voted towards the upkeep of these schools, representing an average of £41 per school, or 15s. per pupil.

The average attendance of pupils during the year was 83 per cent., which may be considered as highly satisfactory.

From the appended returns (Appendices Nos. 6 and 7) of unaided schools, *i.e.*, native schools not in receipt of grants-in-aid from Government on account of certain conditions set forth in previous Reports not being complied with, it will be seen that there are 134 of such schools, with 203 teachers and 10,098 pupils.

The average attendance of pupils during the year is 82 per cent., which approximates very closely to the attendance at the State-aided Schools.

On the representations of the Inspector of Native Education, it has been decided to exempt certain native students, accepted by the Education Department as fit to enter on a course of training, from the payment of the General Native Tax.

The names of such students are submitted and recommended by the Inspector of Native Education, and each case so submitted is considered on its merits.

7.—Health.

The general health of the natives in the Transvaal is good.

The outbreak of plague on the Witwatersrand, referred to in the last Annual Report, would appear to have been entirely stamped out.

An epidemic of small-pox broke out on the Witwatersrand during the latter months of the year.

Vaccinating Officers have been appointed at the various Pass Offices in the labour districts and also at Pretoria, and it is a significant fact that the native population has escaped the disease to a much greater degree than the white population.

This would appear to be due to the thorough and systematic way in which the vaccination of natives has been carried out.

Leprosy and syphilis continue to be very prevalent in the Zoutpansberg District, and the Medical Officer of Health proposes to proceed to the Northern Districts to investigate the latter disease during the current year.

8.—Native Tax.

Instructions were issued early in the year for the general collection of tax to be commenced on the 1st March, which was slightly earlier than the date on which previous collections had been commenced.

A sum of £236,380 was accounted for to the Treasury on the 30th June on account of the 1905 Tax.

From the attached returns (Appendices Nos. 20 and 21) it will be seen that the total amount of Tax collected to the 30th June, 1905, on account of 1903 Tax, viz.:—£374,768, is slightly in excess of the sum collected to the same date for 1904 Tax, viz.:—£345,422, and the excess is due to the fact that two years have been available for the collection of 1903 arrears as against one year for collecting 1904 arrears.

It is also interesting to note (Appendix No. 22), and valuable for future guidance in estimating the amount of Native Tax for revenue purposes, that the Tax collected for 1903 and 1904 averages a little over £3 per square mile of the total area of the Transvaal, or 8s. 10d. per head of the whole population, so that of a native population of 7.3 per square mile only 1.6 pay Tax, the remaining 5.6 being adults exempted by reason of old age or physical incapacity, widows, first wives, unmarried women and children.

9.—Labour Agents.

The total number of recruiting or conducting Licences issued during the year under the Regulations for Labour Agents amounted to 390, which were taken out by 274 Agents. Of this number, 118 were renewals and two were transfers from the original holders. An analysis of these Licences is given in Appendix No. 24.

The total amount of fees collected was £2,055.

10.—Compound Overseers.

Two hundred and ninety-two Compound Overseers' Licences were issued to 163 Licencees, employed by 129 Companies or individuals, as follows:—

94 Gold Mining Companies employed 109 Overseers (2 Assistants).
17 Collieries employed 21 Overseers.
3 Diamond Mining Companies employed 3 Overseers.
The Central South African Railways employed 4 Overseers (3 Assistants).
Other Employers employed 26 Overseers (7 Assistants).

The total fees amounted to £1,529.

11.—Letters of Exemption.

The number of applications for Letters of Exemption under Proclamation No. 35 of 1901 was 42, of which 15 applications were granted.

12.—Registration Certificates.

Two hundred and twenty-six Registration Certificates under Ordinance No. 28 of 1902 were taken out by Coloured Persons (as distinguished from natives) in terms of Government Notice No. 542 of 1902.

The Revenue collected in respect of these Certificates amounted to £226 5s. 0d.

13.—Administration of Intestate Estates.

Approximately six hundred estates of deceased natives have been dealt with during the year. The gross receipts under this head were £2,873 8s. 4d., whilst the payments were £1,063 15s. 4d. Included in these figures are the amounts received and paid out, as compensation in respect of accidents to natives in the employment of the Mines (*vide infra*), viz.:—
£1,997 10s. and £532 10s. respectively.

14.—Compensation in respect of Accidents in the Mines.

The arrangement arrived at in conjunction with the Chamber of Mines under which compensation is paid to natives injured in the service of the Mines or to the next of kin of those who are killed, was modified during the year, when the system was re-established on a different basis to take effect as from the 1st March, 1904.

The existing scale of Compensation is:—

(1) In case of permanent total disablement or death: £10.

(2) In case of permanent partial disablement: £5.

(3) In case of Picaninnies or Umfaans: Half these amounts.

In the case of death the benefits of the scheme are confined as hitherto to wives, children under age or parents, if proved to have been dependent on the deceased. If after a period of twelve months the next of kin cannot be traced, the money is returned to the Mines. The provisions of the scheme apply to aboriginal natives from any part of British South Africa or from Portuguese East Africa. All compensation moneys due in respect of fatal accidents are paid to this Department which undertakes to trace the beneficiaries under the scheme.

15.—Marriages.

A statement showing the number of marriages contracted according to the provisions of Law No. 3, 1897 (Coloured Persons Marriage Law) is attached (Appendix No. 4). A satisfactory increase in the number of legal unions under this Law is disclosed, which may perhaps be attributed to the reduction of the Marriage fee from £3 to 5s. The reduction was effected by Ordinance No. 39 of 1904, by which also was altered the definition of the term "Coloured Person" in the Marriage Law.

16.—Deposit and Remittance Agency.

During the first three months of the financial year, there was a marked falling off in the amount of the remittances, due—to a great extent—to large numbers of natives returning to their homes, and the good crops reaped by them in many districts; but since the month of October, 1904, the results have been very encouraging, and show a decided increase as compared with any corresponding previous period.

The greatest difficulty besetting the administration of the Agency lies in the unsatisfactory means of communication with payees and the considerable delays which frequently occur in paying remittances, militating against a successful expansion of the work of this institution. A scheme is, however, being submitted whereby it is hoped to obviate the present difficulties. Money is now being remitted to all British territories in South Africa, also to Delagoa Bay. Special mention must be made of the great assistance rendered by missionaries of various Societies; and whose services and friendly co-operation have done much to further the work of the Agency.

There is a considerable increase in the amount of deposits during the period under report as compared with the previous year, and it augurs well for the ultimate success of the Agency in this respect. Naturally suspicious, it is a question of time before the confidence of natives is gained yet, as in the case of remittances, substantial progress is being made, and the number of depositors is steadily increasing. Every opportunity is taken to encourage natives to avail themselves of the Agency as a channel for remitting money or as a depository for their savings.

An arrangement was come to during the year whereby the Transvaal Government agreed to bear one half of the net expenditure incurred in the working of the Native Deposit and Remittance Agency, the remaining half being apportioned among the various Colonies on a basis of remittances.

The total transactions during the year were as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
Remittances	32,595	8	2
Deposits	15,203	12	0
Withdrawals	12,521	10	3
Remittance Fees	574	5	0
Fixed Deposits on 30th June, 1905	5,250	0	0

A return of remittances, deposits and withdrawals as well as a statement of Revenue and Expenditure accompanies this Report (Appendices Nos. 25, 26 and 27).

17.—Natives Compensation Claims for War Losses.

In July, 1904, His Excellency the High Commissioner decided, upon the representations of this Department, to increase to £200,000 originally allotted to natives from the Imperial Grant of two millions for compensation to British subjects and others by the further sum of £100,000 and to allocate the total sum of £300,000 as follows:—

Transvaal	£114,000
Orange River Colony	171,000
Natal (for ceded territory)	15,000
	£300,000

A circular was thereupon issued (Annexure "C") to the Native Commissioners and Magistrates giving them instructions as to the procedure to be followed in the distribution of the fund allocated to the Transvaal.

The first instalment of £50,000 of this fund was placed at the disposal of this Department on 23rd August, 1904, and final arrangements were immediately made for commencing the distribution at the rate of 3s. 5d. in the pound on all claims for losses sustained, whether by the action of the British troops or by the action of the Boers. On the 15th September, 1904, remittances were sent to the Native Commissioners and Magistrates of such amounts as had been respectively applied for, and the distribution was commenced simultaneously all over the country and carried on uninterruptedly until 30th April, 1905.

As stated in the Report of the Secretary for Native Affairs on this subject attached to my previous Report, a considerable number of claims which had been made to the Military Compensation Board were included in our schedules in several districts, although the claimants had not appeared before the Native Commissioners to support them, and were provisionally assessed, so that, if finally approved, they might participate in the distribution. Many of these claims have since been proved and have been settled, the provisional assessments in some cases having been reduced after taking evidence. It has been found, however, that a large number of natives have applied for payment of claims made to the Military Compensation Board, of

which no trace could be found in our schedules. This was owing to the fact that in some districts no claims were scheduled unless the claimants personally appeared to support them, and many claims properly made to the Military Authorities were thus excluded from participation in the distribution. The exclusion of these claims was of course due to the non-appearance of the claimants before the Native Commissioners, but, as already mentioned, many claims in exactly the same position, in other districts were provisionally assessed and have shared in the distribution. It is only fair, therefore, that they should all be treated alike and it is proposed that the unscheduled claims should be paid a dividend out of the surplus of the fund, after all the scheduled claims have been disposed of.

With this object in view a circular was issued on the 28th February directing the distribution of the scheduled claims to be completed by 30th April, so that the additional claims might be dealt with between that date and the end of June, when it was hoped the distribution would be finally closed.

A further circular was issued on 6th May calling for:—

(1) A list of scheduled claims remaining unsettled on which it was recommended that payment should still be made;
(2) A list of scheduled claims made by natives whose whereabouts had not been ascertained; and
(3) A list of scheduled claims which it was recommended should be cancelled.

It was also requested that a list should be furnished of any claims not included in the schedules which it was recommended should be considered in terms of the previous instructions.

It was intended that these lists should enable me to ascertain what amount of the fund would be available for distribution on the unscheduled claims and what dividend this would permit of being paid, but the replies were so inconclusive that it was found impossible to come to any decision before 30th June, and payment on the scheduled claims was therefore continued.

The payments made to natives from month to month have been as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
1904—October	26,378	3	6
November	20,089	16	1
December	6,399	11	5
1905—January	5,754	5	7
February	10,367	1	8
March	11,363	11	4
April	5,538	7	2
May	668	16	9
June	957	14	10
	£87,517	8	4

The attached schedule (Appendix No. 23) shows the position of the claims as at 30th June, 1905. It will be observed that the number and the assessed amount of the claims have been altered through reductions made on re-assessments and through the admission of additional claims, from 15,885 claims assessed at £661,106 16s. 1d. as stated in the last Report to 16,029 claims assessed at £657,033 17s. 7d., and of these 10,337 claims, of an assessed value of £512,458 18s. 7d. have been settled by payment of £87,517 8s. 4d., leaving 5,692 claims of an assessed value of £144,544 19s. still to be disposed of. It is expected that a considerable number of the remaining claims will be cancelled and that the balance of the fund thereby set free will suffice to pay a dividend on the unscheduled claims equal to that paid on the claims in the original schedules.

18.—Natives' Military Receipts.

As stated in the last Report, the balance of the monies received by this Department to redeem the military receipts belonging to natives for stock, &c., requisitioned from them during the war was handed over to the Transvaal Repatriation Department, either directly or through the Treasury, as well as a number of receipts which had not been passed for payment. The balance of cash amounted to £12,168 4s. 6d., representing 406 receipts, and it is understood that the control of these funds was afterwards transferred from the Repatriation Department to the Central Judicial Commission, but no information has been received as to how much has been paid out to natives, or as to how the amount remaining unpaid has been disposed of.

19.—Appointment of Registering Officers Under the Transvaal Constitution Order in Council, 1905.

In connection with the appointment of Registering Officers under the Transvaal Constitution Order in Council, 1905, this Department was asked to consent to the appointment as such of certain Sub-Native Commissioners in various districts.

Six Sub-Native Commissioners were gazetted as Registering Officers under Proclamation Administration No. 47/05, and are still carrying on the work in conjunction with their ordinary duties.

20.—Tribal History.

The compilation of this work setting forth concisely the history of the Native Tribes of the Transvaal, collected from information obtained from District Officers of the Department and from the records of the late Government, was completed during the year.

Owing to the transfer of the Head Office from Johannesburg to Pretoria, at the time when the work was about to be put into the printer's hands, it was found impossible to lay the history on the table of the Legislative Council until September of the current year.

The history contains information as to the original place of residence and sphere of influence of the larger tribes of the Transvaal, and describes the causes of their frequent sub-divisions and migrations.

The history of the tribes belonging to distinct groups is outlined, and many tribal customs and characteristics are referred to.

This publication should prove a valuable addition to works already in existence having reference to the Bantu races of South Africa.

21.—Game Preservation.

The Report of the Warden is attached (Annexure "U"). The control of this vote is now in the hands of the Colonial Secretary.

22.—Labour.

As the Pass Commissioner has dealt with this subject at some length in his Report (Annexure "V"), it is only necessary here to refer to a few of its principal features.

Under the Proclamation No. 48 of 1904, the boundaries of the labour districts were clearly defined and somewhat extended with the dual object of removing certain doubts as to the sphere within which the passport system was actually in operation, and of ensuring more effective control over the native labourers.

A very marked improvement is shown in the total labour supply as compared with the previous year.

The number of natives registered on the 1st July in all labour districts during the past three years was as follows:—

——	1903.	1904.	Increase over 1903.	1905.	Increase over 1904.
Mines	67,782	77,567	9,785	107,906	30,339
Other Employ	49,131	55,716	6,585	73,964	18,248
Total	116,913	133,283	16,370 = 14 per cent.	181,870	48,587 = 36 per cent.

The attached Appendices Nos. 30, 31 and 32 show that the influx of labour reached its highest proportions from the various sources of supply throughout South Africa during the months of January, February and March, whilst the exodus took place principally during the winter months of May, June, July and August.

Taking the total average number of labourers employed, the nett increase in 1904-5 over 1903-4 was no less than 33,790, and the supply attained its maximum during the month of April, when 187,130 labourers are shown to have been registered. It is satisfactory to note that this figure exceeds any previously recorded in the history of the mining industry.

The growing evil of desertion to which the Pass Commissioner draws attention has been a matter of serious concern to this Department and to the large employers of labour alike.

Every endeavour is being made to minimise this evil by additional police supervision and by an extension of the finger print system by which offenders may be brought to account.

The results which have so far attended the partial introduction of that system to the Cape Colony natives are certainly encouraging and afford good ground for considering the advisability of a wider application of the experiment.

23.—Living Conditions of Natives on Mines.

The report of the Pass Commissioner bears ample testimony to the general improvements which have been effected throughout the compounds in the interests of the labourers.

It is due to the Chamber of Mines and to the individual companies and mine managers to say that, in its efforts to secure these improvements, the Department has invariably met with their most cordial co-operation and support. In the absence of specific powers to enforce them, the local inspectors have hitherto had to rely almost entirely upon the good offices of the mine authorities to carry out the suggestions which it has been necessary for them to make.

24.—Mortality in Mine Labour Districts.

The question of the mortality amongst natives employed in the mine labour districts is one which continues to engage the anxious attention of this Department and of the representatives of the mining industry.

The vital statistics kept by the Department are now so complete that a very close and reliable record is maintained over the death-rate and its causes throughout the mines.

In a special memorandum recently submitted to His Excellency the Governor, the following information was supplied by the Pass Commissioner upon this subject.

Excluding deaths from accidents the rate of mortality during the past year was 41.37 per 1,000 as against 56.82 per 1,000 during the preceding year.

The improvement is satisfactory, and the fall in the death-rate may chiefly be ascribed to the following facts:—

(*a*) That the seasonal conditions were less severe than those which prevailed during the year 1903, when the death-rate was as high as 69.28 per 1,000.

(*b*) That more care has been exercised by the mining industry in the selection of recruits and the detention of those in a weak physical condition for feeding up prior to being sent to work.

(*c*) That improvements have been effected in the general conditions of the natives during their periods of employment.

The serious death-rates on some mines, when compared with low rates on others, pointed to some specific cause for the existence of such a high mortality. It was particularly observed that the highest death-rates were on the mines where the living conditions of natives were satisfactory, while the lowest rates were actually on those where little or nothing had been done to improve the conditions, which, compared with ordinary standards were, and still are, unsatisfactory.

The extent to which compound conditions are a factor in the death-rate will, however, be dealt with in another portion of this memorandum.

In the Report dated 6th June, 1903, of the Committee of Mine Medical Officers the opinion was expressed that if the recommendations advanced by the Committee were adopted the mortality amongst natives on the mines could be reduced to 40 per 1,000 per annum or even lower. That the death-rate can, and should be reduced, there can be little doubt, and in order to effect that object the racial and climatic factors in so far as they affect the labour supply must be contended with.

The fact that the total death-rate kept at a more or less normal rate during the year, while the rate on some unsatisfactory mines was as consistently low as it was high on some of the best mines, points to the conclusion that it is possible to still reduce the mortality, provided that proper precautions be taken.

It is evident that the highest death-rate among recruits occurs invariably during the first three months of employment, from which fact it must be inferred that acclimatization has a very important bearing upon the question.

This theory applies to all sources of supply; in a lesser degree to those regions where the climates resemble, more closely, that of the Witwatersrand District, and in a greater degree to those areas north of latitude 22 degrees, the climatic conditions of which differ very materially therefrom.

In considering this theory, the following table, showing the territorial analysis of mortality among mines, affiliated to the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association, should be studied:—

District.	Death-Rate per 1,000 per Annum from Disease.
Natal and Zululand	12·8
Swaziland	13·9
Cape Colony	17·2
Basutoland	28·2
Transvaal	38·6
East Coast	39·9
British Bechuanaland	41·2
Orange River Colony	45·7
Others (Unclassified)	111·9
British Central Africa	118·3
Rhodesia	118·6
Mozambique	128·2
Damaraland	128·2
Quilimane	163·9

(It should be stated in explanation of the fact that the foregoing statistics, and others which deal with natives recruited from what may be called tropical areas refer only to mines affiliated to the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association. Owing to the incomplete territorial returns compiled by other mines, it has not been practicable to include them. At the same time the statistical statements may be accepted almost in their entirety, as practically all the natives from tropical areas are recruited by the Association, and are allotted only to its members.)

It will be observed that the Transvaal shows a higher death-rate than Natal and Zululand, Swaziland, Cape Colony and Basutoland. It should be remembered, however, that a large proportion of Transvaal natives employed on the Mines are recruited from northern districts which border on latitude 22 degrees, a number of whom crossed the border, either from Rhodesia or Portuguese territory and having become temporarily domiciled in this Colony, have been recruited, and been classed as Transvaal natives.

The returns show that while the average rate was 44.1, the mortality among natives from Quilimane, Mozambique, Damaraland, Rhodesia and British Central Africa, was so excessive as to seriously affect the total death-rate, in none of the other territories (excluding the Orange River Colony, which as an area of supply is unimportant) was the territorial mortality as high as the total average.

The total death-rate from disease during the past year was	41.37 per 1,000
The death-rate (exclusive of natives recruited from Tropical areas) was	33.78 per 1,000
While the death-rate among natives from Tropical areas was...	130.1 per 1,000

The abnormal mortality among natives of the latter class is further exemplified by comparison between the percentage of the total labour supply and the percentage of the total number of deaths which have occurred.

The average total number of natives employed per month on all mines and works was	94,932
The average number of natives recruited from Tropical areas and so employed was	7,570
Or 7.9 per cent. of the total labour supply.	
The total number of deaths from disease on all mines and works was	3,936
The number of deaths from disease among natives recruited from Tropical areas was	985
Or 25 per cent. of the total number of deaths.	

In considering the disproportionate rate of mortality as between natives recruited from tropical areas and those from other territories, the following table of comparison will be instructive:—

Territory.	Percentage of Total Supply.	Percentage of Territorial Mortality to Total Mortality.	Relation plus or minus of Mortality Percentage to Employment Percentage.
Cape Colony	12·33	4·82	7·51
Portuguese Territory	60·27	54·60	5·67
Natal and Zululand	3·15	·91	2·24
Basutoland	3·41	2·21	1·20
Transvaal	9·03	7·92	1·11
Swaziland	·70	·22	·48
Orange River Colony	·27	·02	·25
British Bechuanaland	1·27	1·19	·08
Others	·34	·86	·52
Damaraland	·76	2·21	1·45
British Central Africa	1·78	4·79	3·01
Mozambique	1·99	5·78	3·79
Quilimane	1·78	6·61	4·83
Rhodesia	2·92	7·86	4·94
	100·00	100·00	—

These figures clearly illustrate the extent to which the death-rate has been affected by the presence on mines and works of a number of natives recruited from the territories of Quilimane, Mozambique, Rhodesia, Damaraland and British Central Africa. Careful enquiries have been made as to whether the death-rates on individual mines and works have been due to the unsatisfactory living conditions and improper care of natives, or to other causes.

The result points clearly to the two facts:—(1) That the racial and climatic factors are the main determinants to be considered, and (2) that while the general treatment of natives, either as regards housing or feeding, is an undoubted factor it is not the most important factor to be weighed in determining the cause of the death-rate.

The following table shows six outcrop mines, employing a large number of natives, on which the rates of mortality are the lowest, and six on which the rates of mortality are the highest. It will again be noted that the proportion of natives from tropical areas, to the total number employed, to a great extent governs individual mine death-rates. In the former category are included the New Goch, Jumpers and Wolhuter mines, which have probably the

three worst compounds on the Rand, while the majority of those in the latter are quite up to the average standard, and none are really bad:—

Mine.	Average Number Employed.	Number of Deaths from Disease.	Death-Rate per 1,000 per Annum.	Natives from Tropical Areas			Condition of Compound.
				Average Number Employed.	Number of Deaths from Disease.	Death-Rate per 1,000 per Annum.	
New Goch	1,595	16	10·0	—	—	—	Bad.
Wolhuter	1,621	27	16·7	1	—	—	Bad.
Jumpers	1,056	18	17·0	29	4	137·9	Bad.
Wemmer	1,215	21	17·3	7	—	—	Good.
Village Main Reef	1,619	29	17·9	26	3	115·4	Good.
Ferreira	1,783	34	19·1	11	—	—	Good.
Lancaster	982	93	91·7	412	65	157·8	Good.
New Primrose	1,569	107	68·2	333	50	150·2	Fair.
Lancaster West	829	55	66·3	282	40	141·8	Good.
Geldenhuis Estate	1,031	68	66·0	79	17	215·2	Good.
South Randfontein	1,632	100	61·3	176	35	198·9	Fair.
New Heriot	970	59	60·8	98	9	91·8	Good.

A similar investigation into the rates of mortality among the deep level mines is not so markedly illustrative, but it is clear from the following statement that the presence of natives, from the areas referred to, has materially affected the rate of mortality in each instance:—

Mine.	Average Number Employed.	Number of Deaths from Disease.	Death-Rate per 1,000 per Annum.	Natives from Tropical Areas.			Condition of Compound.
				Average Number Employed.	Number of Deaths from Disease.	Death-Rate per 1,000 per Annum.	
Robinson Deep	2,290	48	21·0	169	5	29·6	Good
Village Deep...	855	28	32·7	50	4	80·0	„
Rose Deep	1,419	59	41·6	272	26	95·6	„
Nourse Deep	823	36	46·2	200	17	85·0	„
Ferreira Deep	1,387	65	46·9	275	24	87·3	„
Langlaagte Deep	1,326	150	113·1	265	65	207·5	„
Crown Deep	1,894	152	80·3	564	78	138·3	„
Geldenhuis Deep	1,445	114	78·9	229	55	240·2	„
Knights Deep	1,578	118	74·8	210	41	195·2	„
Roodepoort Central Deep ...	1,163	84	72·2	138	34	246·4	„

The statistics furnished would appear to indicate that if natives be recruited from tropical areas, a death-rate of more or less formidable proportions will always have to be faced, and that the rate may, at any time during winter months, be increased to abnormal proportions, should such rigorous seasonal conditions prevail as were experienced during the winter of 1903.

In view, therefore, of the serious rate of mortality among such natives, and of the fact that during the past year only 7.9 per cent. of the total labour supply was drawn from tropical areas, the conditions under which recruitment is to be carried on in those areas would appear to require special consideration.

Mine managers are opposed to employing "Tropical" natives, and in many cases have refused to accept them, on the grounds that prior to the expiration of the period necessary for their acclimatization they are admitted into hospital in large numbers, where many die, while those at work are usually not in a sufficiently good physical condition to perform an average day's work. The working costs are in consequence considerably augmented, without any proportionate increase of work performed.

On the other hand instances have been brought to notice where "Tropical" natives, who have been rejected by one Company after a short trial, have been accepted by another, and although for a short time a high rate of mortality and sickness prevailed, have eventually developed into efficient and satisfactory labourers.

It would in fact appear that acclimatization is necessary in a greater or lesser degree, in all cases, and it would therefore be unwise to unduly restrict the recruitment in such terri-

tories as Quilimane, Mozambique, Rhodesia, and British Central Africa, especially in view of their potential value as areas of labour supply, which are considerable.

On the 30th June last there were employed on mines and works in all the labour districts of this Colony:—

Natives (exclusive of those recruited from tropical areas)	101,671
Natives recruited from tropical areas	11,117
Chinese	41,290

In view of the facts which have thus been elicited by close observation during the past year the following recommendations are made:—

(*a*) That natives from tropical areas be provisionally engaged, in such areas, at any period of the year, but that they be only sent to work here, to arrive in the early summer, to enable them to gain strength and to become acclimatized, before being exposed to the severe winter.

It is understood that arrangements are being made by the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association whereby natives from tropical areas will in future be recruited so as to arrive here in the summer months, but as a large number have been brought here recently, of whom a large proportion have been at once admitted to hospital, and of whom some have died shortly after allotment, it is suggested:—

(*b*) That the erection of proper native change houses, with soup kitchens attached, at all shaft heads be made compulsory, and that arrangements be made by the mines to ensure all natives coming up from the mine entering such change house, and remaining there until sufficiently cooled down.

This recommendation was one of the most important of those advanced by the Committee of mine doctors.

It has not, however, been generally adopted, and, where change houses have been erected, no steps were taken to ensure the natives using them. There is no doubt that a large amount of pneumonia, and the other respiratory diseases which are so prevalent among all classes of natives, and especially among those from tropical areas, would be prevented, were the establishment and the proper control of change houses made compulsory.

In the past, and until regular statistical records enabled the Department to ascertain the real origin of the high mortality amongst natives employed on mines and works, much stress was laid on the condition of compounds, with the result that an extremely elaborate type of compound has been evolved by certain mining groups, with a view to not only meeting our demands, but the demands of the Municipalities. Although it is naturally desirable that the accommodation of natives should be as complete as possible, the arrangements on some mines, which are based on the best and most modern principles as applied to Europeans, do not appear to be as satisfactory as was anticipated. This is probably due to the fact that the conditions are too far removed from the original living conditions of the natives in their own kraals, especially as regards ventilation.

This view is held by many of the mine doctors, and by those who have had the best opportunities of judging of the conditions under which natives are employed on the mines.

In some cases outbreaks of pneumonia, and other diseases of the respiratory system, have been traced directly to the removal of natives from the old type of hut to the new and more highly ventilated pattern. Natives have often been found lying on the asphalte, under the bottom tier of bunks, rather than lie on the top tier, and be exposed to a draught, to which, in their own kraals, they are never accustomed.

In aiming at too high an ideal as regards compound accommodation, the Government would not only be imposing a very heavy burden on the finances of the mining industry, but a class of building would be erected which is not the type best adapted to satisfy the special conditions which are required where natives are concerned.

The policy of this Department in respect of compound accommodation should therefore be to endeavour to have the living conditions of natives as little as possible removed from their original conditions, provided that there be a sufficiency of air space, ventilation and light, and that impervious floors and movable bunks be provided.

The erection of hospitals on modern lines should, however, be invariably insisted upon.

While it is essential that the Native Affairs Department should be armed with authority to enforce certain conditions as occasion may demand, it is quite clear that whatever powers may be vested in its officials should be exercised with considerable discretion, and with a due regard to local circumstances and conditions.

A mortality chart from January, 1903, to 30th June, 1905, is annexed (Appendix No. 33).

25.—Statistics.

Complete statistical returns (Appendices Nos. 1 to 52) accompany this Report under Schedule II., page 63.

W. Windham,
Secretary for Native Affairs.

Pretoria, October 26, 1905.

Annexure "V."

Report by the Pass Commissioner on Native Affairs.

Legislation.—In consequence of the difficulty experienced by this Department in administering, and by employers of labour in complying with, the pass regulations, owing to the

indefinite boundaries of labour districts, and to the omission of certain areas in which a considerable number of natives were employed, it has been necessary to make alterations and additions in this respect.

By Proclamation 48 of 1904, the previous relative proclamations and Government notices were repealed, and each labour district was defined by the proclamation of the farms comprising its area.

Under Proclamation No. 1 of 1905:—

(*a*) Regulation No. 37 of Proclamation 18 of 1903 was repealed, and an alternative provision was substituted in its place.

(*b*) Sub-Section 4 of Regulation 40 of Proclamation 18 of 1903 was amended.

The chief desideratum to be considered in determining what farms should be proclaimed as falling within each labour district area, was not only to secure an effective control over the natives employed by the more important of the surrounding employers of labour, but to preserve strict uniformity in the administration of the laws regulating the conditions of their employment, and that of those in the immediate vicinity.

Some farms upon which agricultural labour only is employed, and which either are contiguous to or lie between those upon which mining operations or other industrial works, involving the employment of a number of natives, are in progress, have, in consequence, been unavoidably included.

The policy of this Department has been to relieve *bonâ fide* farmers from the payment of monthly pass fees, and from any inconvenience which might be incidental to a strict enforcement of the pass regulations. Instructions have therefore been issued that in such cases the regulations should, as far as possible, be relaxed, and that farm labourers' certificates, which operate as monthly passes, and are available during the period of contract, should be issued free of charge.

It is, however, desirable that all natives employed on farms situated in labour districts should be registered. This precaution is a protection to larger employers of labour against the indiscriminate engagement by farmers of natives who are not in possession of proper passes, and assists indirectly in preventing the re-employment of deserters within labour areas.

Labour Supply.—The most important feature during the year has been the marked increase in the labour supply (Appendix No. 34).

A comparison of the increase during the two periods, as under:—

1903–4.			1904–5.		
Mines and Works.	Other Employ.	Total Increase.	Mines and Works.	Other Employ.	Total Increase.
9,785	6,585	16,370	30,339	19,821	50,160

will show that the increase during the past year exceeded that during 1903-4 by 33,790.

On the 30th of June, 1905, the total number of natives holding passports and working in labour districts was 183,443.

To this number should be added 1,091 natives who were in possession of certificates and special passes, making a total of 184,534 natives registered by this Department at that date.

In April, 1905, the maximum supply of labour was reached,

The number of natives employed on the mines and works being ...	110,861
The number of natives in other employ	73,815
Natives registered on certificates and other passes	2,454
Total of	187,130

Natives registered in Labour Districts.—Reliable statistics of the number of natives employed prior to the war are, unfortunately, not procurable, but there can be little doubt that the above figures show a volume of labour which is probably considerably in excess of that employed at any previous period.

Appendix No. 34 shows that the sources of supply which were chiefly responsible for the increase during the year of 30,339 natives on mines and works were:—

Cape Colony, which contributed	30 per cent.
Portuguese East Africa, which contributed ...	24.8 ,,
Rhodesia, which contributed	16.6 ,,
Transvaal, which contributed	11.5 ,,

and that of the increase of 19,821 natives in other employ:—

Cape Colony contributed	33.6 per cent.
Transvaal contributed	34.4 ,,
Natal and Zululand contributed	14.4 ,,
And that Portuguese East Africa contributed only	1.5 ,,

It is noticeable that while natives from Portuguese East Africa comprised 55.39 per cent. of the labour supply of mines and works on the 30th of June, 1905, their proportion of the increase in the mine labour supply during the year was only 24.8 per cent.

Of 38,167 natives recruited by the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association from that

territory, 20,238 or 53.02 per cent. were "Old Mine Boys," while of 16,981 natives also recruited from the Pietersburg district, 6,509 or 38.33 per cent. had previously worked on the mines.

The abnormal influx of labour during the year may be attributed to a number of causes, prominent among which are probably:—

(1) The increased confidence of the natives towards employers of labour generally, and the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association in particular, inspired by a realisation of the improved conditions of life at the mines and the careful safeguards instituted by the Government for the protection of native interests in all branches of labour.
(2) The more complete recruiting organisations, and as a consequence, the more thorough exploiting of native territories.
(3) The partial failure of the crops in Basutoland and certain districts of the Cape Colony, which had the effect of swelling the labour supply from those territories and was no doubt largely responsible for an increase in the supply from Basutoland of 2,588, and from the Cape Colony of 15,860.
(4) The exhaustion of the ready money saved from the high wages paid during the war, and the consequent desire to replenish funds.

The natural result of a large and maintained influx of natives, who may be considered as essentially surface labourers, was that the supply of labour on the mines for surface work, during the early months of the year 1905, was greater than the demand.

Fortunately a number of industrial and construction works were, at the time, in a position to absorb the overflow, so that it cannot be said that the general labour supply was, at any time, in excess of the demand; indeed, it is probable that the supply of underground labourers, upon which the number of surface workers on the mines must necessarily depend, has never, as yet, been sufficient.

Desertions.—The large number of desertions which have occurred, especially during the last six months of the year, has occupied the particular attention of this department and of the mining industry (Appendices Nos. 35 and 36).

10,223 desertions have been reported, of which 6,651 were amongst natives employed on mines and works and 3,572 among natives in other employ; of the former 1,061 and of the latter 1,371 deserters were recovered.

The number of deserters shown as recovered is scarcely a true index of the results which have attended the efforts made to trace and arrest deserters, as in many instances, as has been explained in previous reports, natives are prematurely reported as deserters who have either overstayed their leave, have been arrested, or have been absent from some other cause, and have subsequently either been returned or have voluntarily returned to their employers.

The total number of convictions secured by this department for desertion was 1,044, which, as will be seen, is less than half the number of deserters recovered.

The percentage of unrecovered deserters to the total labour supply is 4.9, and, curiously, exactly the same as during the year 1903-4.

The position, however, is serious, and cannot be overlooked, especially when it be considered that while during the first half of the year only 2,076 desertions from mines were reported, no fewer than 4.575 were reported during the latter half of the year.

Thus, of the total desertions from the mines, 31.2 per cent. occurred between July and December and 68.8 per cent. during January to June of this year.

The serious increase during the latter period can in a large measure be assigned to the recent abnormal influx of labour from the Cape Colony. In this connection the following figures are especially significant as emphasising the effect which Cape Colony natives have had upon the rate of desertion.

During the period June to December, 1904, the average number of Cape Colony natives employed each month on mines and works was 7,542, while 16,128 were similarly employed between January and June, 1905.

The relative percentages during these periods will be found to be 31.9 and 68.1 respectively.

When these be studied in connection with the above percentages of desertion during the two periods of the year, it will be seen that the increase in the rate of desertion during the last six months has been in direct relation to the increase in the number of Cape Colony natives employed during the same period.

Appendix No. 35 shows that of the desertions from mines and works, natives from the Cape Colony absorb 36.6 per cent., and that their rate of desertion from mines is 205.9 per 1,000.

Of the other important sources of supply, Basutoland and Rhodesia show the highest rates, viz., 136.1 and 181.6 per 1,000 respectively.

The Transvaal and Natal have almost identical rates, in each case the rate being slightly in excess of 81 per 1,000, while it is noticeable that Portuguese East Africa, which supplied 55.4 per cent. of the natives employed on mines and works shows the lowest rate of all—28.4 per 1,000.

The difficulties to be contended against in checking desertion are many, and any substantial reduction in the number of desertions cannot, in my opinion, be anticipated under present circumstances.

The primary causes of desertion are to be found in:—

(*a*) The inherent restlessness of the native.
(*b*) The fact that so many different classes of labour are obtainable, which may be more congenial and remunerative than that for which he was originally engaged.
(*c*) The many facilities which are afforded for desertion.

The first two causes are already so widely recognised that comment is probably unnecessary.

The remedy—which at best can only be partially successful—lies in taking all possible steps to close the many avenues for desertion which at present exist.

It is a common practice for natives to desert from employment upon the instigation of touts, and to resort to certain of their more highly educated brethren, some of whom reap a harvest by collecting and retailing discharged passports of other natives and even by forging special passes purporting to have been issued either by a farmer or other employer of labour within or outside a labour area.

In other cases native deserters report at a Pass Office, usually in districts far distant from those in which they have been employed, and state that they have recently arrived, are in search of employment, and have lost their Travelling Passes.

The procedure in such cases, unless a Pass Issuer be satisfied as to the *bonâ fides* of the natives, is to detain them for six days for identification, when, unless they be identified, they are allowed to seek work, and are free agents.

The matter of increased police supervision of natives travelling along the reef and in districts adjacent to labour areas is receiving the attention of the Government. There can be no doubt that a more effectively organised inspection of the passes of natives when travelling will be an effectual means of securing the arrest of deserters and will to a great extent prevent the "open" desertion which has been and is now carried on.

Other avenues for desertion are afforded by the apparent readiness with which some farmers employ natives without passes. After working for a limited period the latter on discharge are handed special passes, upon which, unless they be identified, labour district passes are issued to enable them to look for work.

As has been stated, the chief offenders have been natives from the Cape Colony who, while representing only 12.9 per cent. of the labour supply on mines, have been responsible for 36.6 per cent. of the number of desertions.

The crux of the matter in their case is to be found in the administration of the Pass System in the Cape Colony. Natives from that territory have, on arrival here, been searched, and have been found to be in possession of two or more travelling passes, issued apparently in districts through which they have passed in reaching a line of railway; others, recruited by agents of the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association, in the Cape Colony, have, prior to recruitment, already armed themselves with independent travelling passes, while others at work here are in the habit of receiving travelling passes from their friends by post.

In each case their desertion is facilitated and their detection is rendered improbable by the fact that upon presenting their duplicate travelling passes, and should they not be identified as deserters, they are treated as new arrivals and are enabled to look for fresh employment.

In June, 1905, in consequence of wholesale desertion among these natives, it was resolved to apply the Finger Impression System to them.

The results, although covering a period which is outside the scope of this report, have been satisfactory, and, as they bear directly on this point, are included.

It will be observed that since the application of the Finger Impression System 156 Cape Colony deserters have been arrested by this Department during a period of five months, and that during the same period, prior to the application of the system, only 81 arrests were effected.

Desertion can never be entirely prevented, but, in my opinion, a far-reaching and deterrent effect can be exercised indirectly by securing the detention of native deserters at the time of their registration to fresh employers.

The application of the system of identification of natives by finger impressions in the case of Cape Colony natives has shown satisfactory results.

In almost all cases the natives arrested through its agency have been on the point of securing fresh employment, and but for the system would have succeeded.

I am convinced that its extension to all natives will be fully justified and that it, combined with a more efficient inspection of natives' passes by the police, is the most effective means of reducing the present serious rate of desertion.

Government Compounds.—The increase in the work incidental to the administration of the Pass Regulations is exemplified in the return showing the number of natives accommodated at Pass Office Compounds during the year (Appendix No. 37).

24.776 natives have been accommodated, chiefly at Johannesburg and Krugersdorp, where 10,798 and 10,385 were received and passed through respectively.

At Boksburg 3,583 were similarly dealt with.

It will be observed that the large proportion of the natives accommodated were discharged prisoners. The Pass Regulations provide that all natives convicted of offences shall be sent from the Magistrate's Court or the gaol to the Pass Office Compound. Such provision is a material assistance to the control of the native population, and discharged prisoners are passed through the Finger Impression Record Department and are dealt with, as regards future registration, by that Department only. If previous convictions are proved, the nature of the latest or any unrecorded conviction is added to the history, which is preserved, of each native dealt with.

In the Krugersdorp District 8,599 natives who were accommodated are shown in the return as unclassified.

The majority of these were natives recruited by the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association.

The Association make much use of this compound as a rest house, and a considerable revenue accrues to the Department thereby.

A fee of 1s. a head is chargeable on all natives applying for and accepting accommodation. Moneys so derived are no longer brought to account as Revenue, but are appropriated as Departmental Funds at the disposal of the Commissioner for Native Affairs.

Disturbances and Strikes.—The period under report has been singularly free from strikes and disturbances amongst natives, and the few reported have generally had their origin in the miscalculation of the period of contract.

Some little difficulty has been experienced in a few cases in which complaints have been laid before this Department as to the rate of pay received being less than that contracted for. Enquiries elicited the fact that dissatisfaction did exist owing to Mine Managers in some cases having decided to pay natives employed as rock drillers according to the number of inches drilled, calculated on the basis of 36 ins. as a day's work, instead of at a fixed rate per shift. In explanation of this policy it should be stated that natives had been found to take advantage of the latter arrangement by loafing underground, and, in consequence, not performing the full standard of work required, but at the same time receiving a full day's pay.

The daily standard of work for a hand driller under ordinary conditions has long been fixed as 36 ins. drilled, while due grace is always allowed to new natives to enable them to become accustomed to the work and sufficiently skilled to drill the required footage.

Until such time they invariably receive the full rate of pay.

The action of the mine authorities in this connection was consequently upheld by this Department, and the natives resumed work without giving further trouble.

Mr. Brownlee, representing the Government of the Cape Colony, subsequently enquired into the circumstances of the case and was of the opinion that no hardship had been experienced by the natives, and that the policy of the mines, acquiesced in by this Department, should be left undisturbed.

Revenue.—An increase in revenue has again to be recorded, the total amount collected being £208,971 12s. 3d., as against £180,699 14s. during the preceding year.

The attached statement shows that £102,391 13s. 6d., or nearly half of the total collection was collected in the Johannesburg district, and that no less than £206,306 3s. was derived from the issue of Native Passports and Certificates (Appendix No. 38).

A considerable increase will be found in the amount of fines imposed and collected by the Inspectors. This may be attributed chiefly to the fact that large employers of native labour realise more fully than was formerly the case that the visits of Inspectors and the adjudication of petty cases by those officers lend themselves to the maintenance of compound discipline.

It may be remarked that the maximum monthly collection was £20,022 9s., received during March, the minimum collection being £14,414 15s. 3d. received during July (Appendix No. 39).

Summary of Transactions.—The increase in the volume of the labour supply, and consequently in the collection of Revenue has in turn necessitated a corresponding increase in the number of transactions recorded in Pass Offices (Appendix No. 40).

The amount of detail work in the issue of passports and passes is assuming immense proportions and cannot be dispensed with if an efficient control over natives in labour districts is to be maintained.

The number of passports issued during the administrative year was 260,929 as against 192,614 during the preceding year.

1,889,914 monthly passes were issued, an increase of 280,100, while 205,090 travelling passes were issued, an increase of 45,808 as compared with the year 1903-4.

It will be seen from the preceding figures that the increase during the year in these, the three chief classes of passes issued, was no less than 394,223, and that the total number of transactions necessary for the collection of a Revenue of £208,971 12s. 3d. was 2,452,693.

A severe strain has in consequence been placed on this Department, and the clerical establishment has been especially taxed in its efforts to meet the increased demands which have been made upon it.

Under the circumstances the work, in my opinion, has been creditably performed, although I am aware that at times unavoidable delays and congestion at offices have resulted, and employers of labour have in consequence suffered some inconvenience.

While, however, I would submit that a sufficient clerical staff should always be maintained to enable the ordinary routine work to be performed with efficiency and despatch, it should be remembered that owing to fluctuations in the labour supply and other causes the work to be performed at Pass Offices is necessarily spasmodic, and that occasions must inevitably occur, when owing to extreme and unexpected pressure, it cannot be performed with that despatch which is desired.

Mortality.—A special memorandum upon this important question has recently been submitted to you, and it is not necessary for me to reproduce it here as I understand that you propose to deal specially with it in the main report.

Death Returns Classified.—Coal, Gold and Diamond Mines, &c.—Returns are furnished showing the comparative death rates among natives employed on (Appendices Nos. 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46)—

(*a*) Gold Mines, Outcrop.
(*b*) Gold Mines, Deep Level.
(*c*) Coal Mines.
(*d*) Diamond Mines.
(*e*) Surface Works.

There is again little difference between the death rates on outcrop gold mines and coal mines, that in the case of the former being 44.2, and in the latter 44.6 per 1,000.

The mortality on deep level gold mines is again the most serious, and at the rate of 60.4 per 1,000.

On diamond mines the death rate amongst the natives employed was, during the year 1903-4, as low as 8.6 per 1,000.

It will be observed that during the year under report there has been a marked increase in the rate of mortality, and that with the exception of two, all the deaths have occurred on the Premier Mine.

An outbreak of septic pneumonia during the early part of the year was responsible for a number of deaths and engaged the attention at the time of the District Medical Officer of Health, Witwatersrand.

The lowest death rate (22.1 per 1,000) is that amongst natives employed on surface works. A fair comparison with the death rates on mines is not, however, possible, as a large number of natives employed on surface works have previously been employed on mines and have become acclimatised.

Territorial Analysis of Mortality. Respiratory Diseases.—These diseases have been responsible for 49.26 per cent. of the total deaths, as against 55.01 during the previous year.

A marked reduction is to be noted in the percentage of the deaths which have occurred from pneumonia, that during the past year being 32.66, as compared with 45.45 during the year 1903-4.

The number of deaths from phthisis shows a high increase in the incidence of that disease, which has been responsible for 11.20 per cent., as against 5.98 per cent. of the deaths during the previous year (Appendices Nos. 47 and 48).

Meningitis.—The proportion of the deaths which have occurred from this disease to the total number of deaths from disease, shows no alteration, but it is noticeable that while during the year 1903-4, 90 per cent. of the deaths from meningitis occurred amongst natives from Portuguese East Africa, only 73.21 per cent. of such deaths have occurred amongst these natives during the past year, and that while during the year 1903-4, 5.65 per cent. of the deaths from meningitis were among natives belonging to the Transvaal, the percentage has during the past year increased and is as high as 10.59.

Diarrhœal Diseases.—Diarrhœal diseases, as compared with the year 1903-4, show an increase of 5.75 per cent., the decrease in the percentage of deaths from pneumonia and the increase in that from diarrhœal diseases may probably be traced to the reversed seasonal conditions, which have been experienced during the year.

Scurvy.—Only 93 deaths, or 2.17 per cent. of the total deaths have occurred from this disease, as against 209 deaths (4.51 per cent.) during the year 1903-4.

No deaths have occurred either among natives from Basutoland or from the Orange River Colony.

Accidents.—424 deaths have been due to accidents. Their percentage (9.91) shows an increase over that of the previous year of 2.7.

Chart of Mortality.—The usual chart of mortality is furnished (Appendix No. 49), and if studied in conjunction with that for 1903-4, is clearly explanatory of the foregoing facts.

Living Conditions of Natives on Mines.—My last report on this subject was submitted in March, 1904, since which date a steady progressive movement towards the improvement of the living conditions of natives on the mines has to be recorded.

In some cases excellent compounds have been erected on the latest principles; in the large majority of cases substantial improvements and additions have been effected, while in only a few cases has nothing been done during the year towards improving the conditions.

The average type of compound is satisfactory, and it has been noticeable that special attention has been and is still directed by the mines towards the maintenance of a liberal and varied diet, of improved hygienic conditions and sanitary arrangements and of efficient hospital accommodation and treatment.

It should, however, be pointed out that while generally speaking, the desire of mine managers is to raise the efficiency of their compounds to the required standard, there have been cases in which, owing either to financial difficulties or to the shortness of the life of the mine, they have not felt themselves justified in incurring the expenditure which under ordinary circumstances would have been necessary.

In such cases the policy of this department has been to sanction the existing conditions being temporarily maintained, provided that the compound be kept in a proper sanitary condition and in a fit state of repair and that adequate and efficient hospital accommodation and treatment be provided.

On the other hand there have been some few instances in which the representations of this Department have not received due consideration, and in which the living conditions of natives have not been improved, and still are below the standard required.

It is hoped that this difficulty, as also the question as to what type of compound should be erected, and what general arrangements should be provided, will be met by the regulations, which it is proposed to make, under the Coloured Labourers Health Regulations Ordinance.

As reference to that portion of this Report which deals with the mortality amongst natives on the mines will show, I am not of the opinion that the elaborate type of compound which has been erected in some cases, is either justified or necessary. At the same time it is essential that this Department should be armed with authority, not with the object of raising the present standard, but of securing uniformity, and of enforcing certain conditions when necessary.

The accommodation provided for their natives by contractors is not satisfactory.

On the 30th of June there were 263 contractors employing 21,963 natives in labour districts.

The mortality amongst those employed on mines was 14.9 per 1,000 per annum. This low rate of mortality may be ascribed to the fact that natives employed by contractors are usually boys of picked physique who have previously been employed on the mines and have become acclimatised.

In most cases contractors, by reason of their nomadic existence, have no fixed compounds, and the natives are housed according to the facilities available at the place where operations are being conducted.

It thus not infrequently occurs that the accommodation provided is of the most primitive description.

The following statement showing the improvements which have been carried out to compound accommodation on mines during the past year, illustrates, in a marked degree, the general desire of the mines to co-operate in this matter, and I would again draw special attention to the fact that all that has been done towards improving the living conditions of natives, has been carried out in the absence of any law regulating the conditions to be observed:—

JOHANNESBURG DISTRICT.

City and Suburban.—Sawdust urinal, plunge and shower bath, also cemented laundry erected. West wing of compound renovated and inside rebuilt.

Henry Nourse.—Impervious floors, windows, movable iron bunks and stoves have been put in. Concrete floors laid in latrines and urinals. Improved water service to compound laid on and roofs of rooms raised three feet.

Jumpers.—Shuttered windows put in, also flues over braziers. Two additional rooms added with brick floors. Cemented cess-pool put in instead of buckets. New hospital commenced.

Jumpers Deep.—New compound with every appointment up to date. Also a very good hospital erected in connection with the Geldenhuis Deep.

Meyer and Charlton.—New and good compound built on modern lines, including bath house, wash house, &c., also excellent hospital with every convenience for operating and treating sick.

New Heriot.—New bath, also isolation room added to hospital. New latrines and urinal erected. All rooms have had impervious floors and stoves put in. A new brick lined convalescent ward has been added to hospital and an entire new wing with every appointment has been added to the compound.

Nourse Deep.—Two sawdust urinals erected in compound, also a hot and cold shower bath with laundry attached. Additional paved gutters for draining compound have been put in, and an improved water service has been provided for flushing out rooms.

Treasury.—Impervious floors have been put down in all rooms, latrines, urinals, &c., also cement cesspool in lieu of buckets. Fifteen new rooms have been built. Stoves put in all rooms, and a complete new hospital erected. New windows and improved ventilation placed in all rooms and new storerooms added to kitchen.

Wolhuter.—Impervious floors, windows and ventilators have been provided in some of the rooms. Iron frame bunks put in instead of wooden ones. Larger drain for carrying off waste water has been built through compound. New hospital has just been commenced and further improvements to rooms are being slowly carried out.

Village Deep.—New stone compound with impervious floors; large roof ventilators; wall ventilators; electric light; iron bunks; sawdust urinals; improved latrines; a septic tank for latrines and urinals. Stoves with flues have just been installed and baths are now being built.

Village Main Reef.—Impervious floors, movable wooden bunks, sawdust latrines. Sixteen additional beds added to hospital and hospital yard fenced in.

Village Deep and Village Main Reef Joint Hospital.—The building previously used as the Village Deep Compound has been adapted for use as a joint hospital. Spacious isolation hospital with fenced-in yard is attached.

Jubilee and Salisbury.—Improved sawdust urinals. Improved drainage system from each room to central drain to carry off water after flushing.

Robinson Deep.—A new brick compound was commenced in March, 1905, and will be completed in about October, 1905. Four sawdust urinals erected.

Ferreira.—Brick compounds erected in October and November, 1904. Two baths, latrines and urinals with septic tanks and filter beds. Kitchen with steam boilers; additional septic tank. Fire boxes with flues. Hospital with all latest improvements and accommodation for 48 patients.

Ferreira Deep.—Wooden bunks on iron frames. Improved drainage. Additional rooms, built of brick, to accommodate 270 natives.

Wemmer.—New gutter laid from bath. Six additional boilers in kitchen. Impervious floors and stoves have been put in. Hospital fitted with 30 beds, kitchen, dispensary, latrines, &c., have been erected.

Langlaagte Deep.—Floors in compound rooms laid with brick and cement. Bunks erected in all compound rooms, also fire boxes and flues; 14 sawdust urinals erected in compound, with gutters laid down to carry off water and urine. New latrines erected. Steam cooking pots put in kitchen. New hospital built. Fresh water pipes for drinking purposes put in in different parts of the compound. New compound rooms erected to contain 400 natives. Six new cooking pots added to the kitchen.

Robinson Central Deep.—Floors in compound rooms paved with brick and cement. Cement gutter put in all round compound to carry off rain water. Two rooms erected in compound. All rooms provided with bunks. Urinal built in compound. Four new rooms built to accommodate 300 natives. All rooms fitted with bunks, fire boxes and flues. Urinal erected outside compound gates. New hospital started, which when completed will provide accommodation for about 60 patients.

Robinson.—Wooden bunks on iron frames and stoves and flues fixed in all rooms. Rooms lined with brick. Iron urine tank put in. Roof lights in all compound rooms. Bath and stove in hospital. Twenty-five new rooms completed.

Consolidated Langlaagte.—Compound improved and bunks provided. Fire boxes installed in all rooms.

Crown Deep.—Gutter made all round compound. Sawdust urinals erected. Rooms in compound ventilated. Twenty-three large and up-to-date compound rooms built to hold 70 natives each. Shower bath with 12 showers erected. New hospital provided.

Crown Reef.—Urinals erected in compounds. Fresh water for drinking laid on. New hospital and compound rooms erected.

Langlaagte Estate.—Compound rooms floored with asphalte. New hospital completed.

Fresh water tanks erected for drinking purposes. New urinal tanks with lids and troughs provided. Fire boxes and flues put in all rooms, and rooms enlarged and properly ventilated. Bunks are being supplied.

Germiston District.

Rietfontein Estate.—Compound entirely renovated. Cement floors. Movable bunks. A new and spacious compound in addition to above has been built.

Glencairn.—Steam cooking plant. Hospital ceiled and three additional rooms added to it.

May Consolidated.—Steam cooking plant.

Knights Deep.—Compound considerably added to. Steam cooking plant.

Witwatersrand.—Compound entirely renovated.

Simmer and Jack East.—Compound entirely renovated. Hospital built.

Knights Central.—Compound considerably added to. New rooms are supplied with all the latest improvements.

South Geldenhuis Deep.—New compound erected. Steam cooking plant.

Simmer and Jack West.—New compound and hospital built.

Geldenhuis Deep.—Additional rooms to compound. New and spacious hospital.

Geldenhuis Estate.—Spacious hospital. Compound wall raised. Windows and stoves put in.

Burham.—Small hospital erected.

Simmer and Jack Proprietary.—Hospital enlarged. Compound repaired. New latrines provided.

Rose Deep.—Additional rooms to the compound. Hospital enlarged.

Dynamite Factory.—Old rooms thoroughly renovated. Additional rooms added to compounds. New hospital is to be built, plans for which are out.

New Primrose.—Stoves with flues have been installed. Convalescent ward added to hospital.

Boksburg-Springs District.

Angelo Deep.—A new burnt brick compound to house 600 natives has been completed. This compound is built on modern lines, the floors being properly asphalted, rooms ventilated and lighted. Movable bunks of the latest pattern have been provided. Stoves with proper flues have been placed in each room. The compound is further provided with proper wash houses, with hot and cold water laid on, and steam kitchens. The latrines are of the best type although it is contemplated to introduce the septic tank system at a later stage. The sick of this company are treated at the East Rand Proprietary Hospital.

Boksburg Gold Mines.—A new burnt brick compound exactly similar to that of the Angelo Deep, and having all the latest improvements has been completed. The sick of this company are also treated at the East Rand Proprietary Hospital.

Cason Gold Mines.—An extension has been added to the existing compound. The new portion is built in stock brick, properly lighted, ventilated, heated, and asphalted. Movable bunks, wash houses, kitchens, and latrines of the best pattern have been provided.

Cinderella Deep.—An excellent brick compound of the latest style has been provided. In it proper provision has been made for heating, lighting, washing, and cooking. The latrines are excellent, being fitted with a water-borne septic tank system.

Driefontein Deep.—Up to 30th June no further improvements have been effected.

(Since that date a start has been made with the asphalting of the floors of the rooms and the installing of movable bunks.

Driefontein and Angelo Joint Mill.—No improvements.

Driefontein Consolidated.—A new wing has been added to the old compound.

East Rand Extension.—No improvements.

Ginsberg G. M. Co.—Rooms have been partly asphalted and stoves placed in each.

Hercules.—A good brick compound, capable of housing 400 natives, has been completed. The sick of the company are also treated at the East Rand Proprietary Hospital.

East Rand Proprietary Hospital.—This has been completed during the year at a cost of over £10,000. It is replete with every modern convenience.

Van Dyk Proprietary.—An excellent new brick compound of a modern pattern has been commenced.

Wit Deep.—Floors have been made impermeable, windows have been put in, and the bunks made movable.

The latrines attached to the hospital have been improved.

New Kleinfontein.—About 600 natives are housed in a portion of the Chinese Compound, which has been sub-divided for that purpose. This compound is built on approved lines. The balance of the natives are located in the old workshops, which have been fitted with movable bunks, and have been partly asphalted. Proper shower baths, kitchens, and latrines have been provided.

Kleinfontein Hospital.—Good brick hospital, properly fitted, has been completed. This hospital is in the charge of a medical officer and a qualified white assistant.

Benoni.—No improvements.

New Modderfontein.—A new compound has been completed. This is fitted with all the required improvements. A new brick hospital has been erected.

Van Ryn.—Steam cooking plant has been installed. New latrines of approved pattern have been built. A new brick hospital has been completed.

Apex.—Latrines have been renewed and improved. Six brick rooms floored with asphalte, with movable bunks and stoves, have been completed. The remaining rooms have been floored with asphalte, and windows and flues put in. The air space has been improved by taking out some of the bunks. Steam cooking plant has been installed, and a new store-room and bath-house erected. (The food on this mine has been greatly improved, more green vegetables being supplied.)

Brakpan Colliery.—Bunks have been put into about three-quarters of the compound. (The natives employed by the Brakpan Gold Mines are housed in this compound.)

Great Eastern Colliery.—No improvements effected.

De Rietfontein Colliery.—One cowl ventilator has been installed in each room, the roofs of which have been repaired. The latrines have been removed, and new ones erected at a greater distance from the compound. A section of an entirely new compound built of iron, brick lined, has been commenced.

Clydesdale Colliery.—Six rooms and a dispensing room have had cement floors and stoves put in. Flues have been fitted to half the rooms, which have been supplied with new floor consisting of pounded ant-heap.

Tyne Valley Colliery.—No improvements effected.

Cloverfield.—New brick compound and hospital have been completed. These have all the latest improvements.

Welgedacht Exploration.—Natives are housed in temporary huts.

East Rand Coal and Gold.—No improvements.

Cassel Colliery.—No improvements.

KRUGERSDORP DISTRICT.

Champ d'Or.—November, 1904.—The mule stable inside the compound was done away with, and a room for natives replaced it, a passage way was also made through one side of the compound to the urinals and latrines.

December, 1904.—Shower bath was erected. The hospital was enlarged to accommodate fifteen more beds, and the sick room inside the compound was removed.

February, 1905.—Additional rooms were built inside the compound.

May, 1905.—Additional quarters on modern lines to accommodate an additional 200 natives were begun and practically finished. (This was to relieve the overcrowding in the old compound.)

Lancaster.—July, 1904.—An isolation ward was erected some distance from the compound.

November, 1904.—A large movable tank was installed in the compound, for dipping and cleansing the movable wooden bunks. The meat ration was increased.

December, 1904.—The vegetable ration was increased.

March, 1905.—The whole compound was renovated. (1) Asphalte floors were installed in all the rooms. (2) Glass skylights were placed in the roofs of every room. (3) Movable bunks were placed in the rooms. (4) Stoves with flues were installed in every room. (5) A joint hospital was erected outside the compound, in conjunction with the Lancaster West G.M. Co. (6) Louvre ventilators were placed in all rooms. (7) Walls were relined where required with cement.

May, 1905.—Improved drains were laid to facilitate the flushing out of the rooms with water.

Lancaster West.—August, 1904.—(1) Hospital blankets were provided for the first time. (2) A hip bath was installed in the hospital. (3) An open cement drain was made through the compound.

March, 1905.—The whole compound was renovated. (1) Asphalte floors were placed in each room. (2) Glass skylights were placed in the roofs of every room. (3) Doors and doorways to all rooms were thoroughly overhauled and placed in good repair. (4) A shower bath was installed in the compound. (5) A joint hospital was built in conjunction with the Lancaster G.M. Co. (6) Louvre ventilators were placed in rooms.

Luipaards Vlei.—The consent of the company to the complete renovation of their present compound has been obtained, the work is now proceeding in compliance with requirements. Stoves with flues, skylights, movable bunks, &c., &c., are being installed.

Porges Randfontein.—The building of an entirely new compound on modern lines has been begun.

Randfontein Deep.—August, 1904.—The rooms in compound were refloored and bunks were installed. Stoves with flues were placed in all the rooms occupied. A hospital room was prepared with a boarded floor. A latrine with a cement floor was erected. A sawdust urinal was erected inside the compound.

November, 1904.—Four additional rooms were prepared inside the compound, on increase of complement. The kitchen was renovated. Additional rations of beans and bacon were issued.

May, 1905.—Movable bunks and cylindrical stoves with flues were placed in all rooms. Daily ration of coffee was added.

Robinson Randfontein.—August, 1904.—A latrine was erected for the use of the location.

September, 1904.—Two sawdust urinals were erected in the compound.

February, 1905.—An isolation ward was erected to accommodate about eight natives. The shower bath was fenced in.

South Randfontein.—November, 1904.—A wing of the compound was renovated and five sawdust urinals were built.

February, 1905.—(1) A drain pipe was laid through the entire length of the compound. (2) New latrines were built. (3) Native patients removed from the previously unsatisfactory hospital rooms and placed in the new joint hospital at the North Randfontein.

March, 1905.—(1) Old rooms in the square pulled down and removed. (2) A storeroom built. (3) Latrines fenced in. (4) The floor in the bottom wing of the compound filled in and levelled up with earth.

June, 1905.—Kitchen enlarged and six additional cooking pots added.

West and Central.—July, 1904.—Kitchen covered in with wood and iron.

November, 1904.—Hospital room enlarged, giving extra accommodation for six beds.

June, 1905.—(1) Stoves erected in each room. (2) Glass shutter windows let into roofs of rooms. (Preparations for the erection of additional quarters are in progress outside the present compound.)

Windsor.—September, 1904.—(1) Sick room considerably improved, ceiled and an old door walled up. (2) Windows placed in rooms that had not previously had them.

November, 1904.—Trench made down sides of rooms for carrying off storm water.

May, 1905.—(1) The installation of impervious floors to compound rooms was begun. (2) The movable bunks are now on the site and will be put into the rooms as the flooring is completed.

Consolidated Main Reef.—The west compound has been entirely renovated, in accordance with recommendations. A hospital to accommodate about 25 natives has also been built. This is under the supervision of a white attendant.

Durban Roodepoort.—Eight new rooms have been added to the compound.

Roodepoort Central Deep.—This compound has been entirely renovated, in accordance with recommendations. A new hospital to accommodate about 100 natives has been built, it is under the supervision of a white attendant.

Roodepoort United.—A white attendant has been placed in charge of the hospital.

Vogelstruis Consolidated Deep.—This compound has been entirely renovated in accordance with recommendations.

Vogelstruis Estate.—New blocks of rooms on excellent lines have been built to meet requirements of added complement.

Middelburg District.

Witbank Colliery.—New roof to old compound and windows put in throughout. Covered way from shaft to compound. Steam kitchen. Hospital brick lined.

Transvaal and Delagoa Bay Collieries.—No improvements during the year. (Compound accommodation and hospital good.)

Coronation Colliery.—Six new wood and iron rooms with pitched roofs, box ventilation, impervious floor and movable bunks have been erected. Old compound has been brick lined and impervious floors and windows put in. Covered way from shaft to compound. Hospital has a newly built room, wooden floors and ceiling, pitched roof and box ventilation.

Middelburg Steam Coal and Coke Colliery.—Four new rooms built, wood and iron, with pitched roofs, and box ventilation has been erected. New compound kitchen. New brick lined hospital with pitched roof and box ventilation, wooden floors and ceiling.

Landau Colliery.—Four new rooms built with pitched roof, box ventilation and windows. Windows and movable bunks have been put in old compound. A room has been added to the new hospital.

Douglas Colliery.—Compound rooms paved with stone. Movable bunks put in. New brick hospital, pitched roof and impervious floors.

Crown Colliery.—Beds and mattresses have been provided in hospital.

Pretoria District.

Premier Diamond Mining Co.—(1) More ventilation has been added by means of windows in some of the rooms. More light has been introduced in the same manner. (2) A cement drain has been built on the western side of No. 1 Compound which carries off all water which previously lay stagnant. (3) Floor of compound yard has been levelled and hardened. (4) Twenty-four additional rooms have been erected in No. 1 Compound. (5) No. 2 Compound has had ten rooms added to it. (6) A new compound consisting of seventeen rooms has been built near the new gear.

The following improvements have been made to the hospital:—

Two additional wards, bathroom, new kitchen, examining shed, kit room mortuary, wash house, latrines.

Montrose Diamond Mining Co.—No improvements have been effected.

Edendale Estates.—Wood and iron hospital has been erected, and contains stove with flue.

Pretoria District D.M. Co.—There is a wood and iron compound on this mine, but the natives prefer living in the huts which they build of grass. Vegetables are included now in the scale of diet, and are supplied twice a week. No improvements made to building during the year.

Kaalfontein D.M.—Hospital has been floored and ceiled, also lined throughout with wood. One stove with flue has been installed.

Schuller D.M.—This mine has closed down.

Bynestpoort D.M. Co.—This mine started work in January, 1905. Natives live in huts. Pretoria District Diamond Company's hospital is used when required.

Heidelberg District.

Nigel.—New wing has been added to compound built of brick with large, well-ventilated rooms, gable roofs and beaten earth floors. New kitchen with steam cooking plant. Wood and iron latrine, bucket system introduced, concrete floor. New lean-to roof on half of old portion of compound.

Twelve additional iron bedsteads, with mattresses, have been provided in the hospital.

Nigel Deep.—This mine only re-started work in May, 1905. Two semi-detached cottages have been converted into a hospital.

Fortuna Colliery.—No improvements.

Coronation Syndicate.—No improvements.

Hex River Exploration Co.—Flooring boards have been put down for sleeping purposes.

South Rand Exploration Colliery.—Portions of compound built of burnt brick, with large well ventilated rooms, granolithic floors, iron frame detachable bedsteads, with detachable wooden bunks. Compound manager's office, &c., electric light.

Klerksdorp District.

No improvements have been effected to either compounds or compound hospitals, all compounds being practically unused during the greater portion of the year.

Vereeniging District.

Vereeniging Estates.—Iron bedsteads have been provided in the hospital.

Inspection and Cases Adjudicated by Inspectors.—The extension and demarcation of the labour districts has considerably increased the areas to be covered by individual Inspectors in the performance of their duties.

The necessity of visiting outlying works, which had not previously been within their jurisdiction, has caused a slight falling off in the number of inspections carried out during the year.

5,151 inspections were made and 2,495 cases, of which 2,404 were offences, usually breaches of discipline and minor contraventions of the Pass Law, and 91 were disputes—in most cases between the natives themselves (Appendix No. 50).

The revenue collected during the period on account of fines imposed by Inspectors amounted to £2,484 7s. 3d.

Native Complaints.—As usual an important element of the work performed at Pass Offices has been the investigation of native complaints, which usually take the form of complaints as to:—

(*a*) Non-payment of wages.
(*b*) Ill-treatment.
(*c*) Detention beyond the term of contract.

The work in this respect again shows a decided increase, especially in the Johannesburg district, where special facilities are afforded for the investigation of native grievances. With regard to that office, the circumstances which led to its establishment have already been recorded, and a glance at the tangible results shown in Appendix No. 51 and in that portion of my report of last year which dealt with this subject vindicates its inception—2,250 complaints were investigated at that office.

In the majority of cases they had regard to wages, the amount involved being upwards of £5,600. Of this sum £4,000 were actually recovered on behalf of natives.

In all labour districts 3,585 complaints in respect of wages were enquired into, the amount involved being £10,332 16s. 2d. £5,712 16s. 6d. were recovered and paid over to the complainants.

It will be seen that the amount unrecovered represents the large sum of £4,619 19s. 8d. In some cases there can be little doubt that sums shown as unrecovered have actually been paid over to the natives by an amicable arrangement with their employers, the result of which has not been reported to this Department.

The large proportion, however, of the monies unrecovered have been losses sustained by natives employed by contractors, who have failed to pay their wages.

This practice, which has on several occasions during the year occupied the attention of the Courts, calls for special remark.

A number of unscrupulous contractors have defrauded natives of large sums of money, as will be seen from that portion of this report which refers to complaints dealt with by the Town Inspector. Many natives are engaged by these persons, who then obtain contracts on the mines and elsewhere. The contracts are usually remunerative, but in many cases the monies obtained in settlement are either squandered in speculation, or are devoted to purposes other than the discharge of native wages.

The natives who have not been paid take no active steps during the first month or two, being content with assurances, until, ultimately, when the complaint reaches this Department, the contract has frequently terminated, and no further payments are due in that respect.

The contractor, on being pressed for payment, declares himself insolvent, and although judgment is obtained against him in Court, no material benefit accrues to the natives.

It is, therefore, desirable that steps should be taken to safeguard native interests in this respect.

Complaints with regard to ill-treatment, unless of a trivial or unfounded nature, are handed over to the police for prosecution. Of 118 cases investigated by this Department an equal number will be found to have been settled in favour of either party.

Of those in respect of detention beyond the term of contract, 609 cases were enquired into of which 281 were settled in favour of the plaintiff, and 289 in favour of the defendant.

As usual, a large proportion of such complaints are due to a misunderstanding on the part of the natives of the actual period during which they are required to work.

Crime.—In spite of an increase to the population of 50,160 natives, it is satisfactory to note that whereas during the previous year 5,130 cases were sent by this Department to Magistrates' Courts for prosecution, in which 4,306 convictions were secured, only 3,621 cases, resulting in 2,978 convictions, were remitted to Court during the period under review (Appendix No. 52).

Each case is first investigated prior to remittal.

The prosecutions are worked up by an officer, who is a barrister-at-law. He attends the Native Court, and watches cases on behalf of this Department.

That his work has been satisfactorily performed will be seen from the fact that of 3,621 cases sent to Court 91 per cent. resulted in the conviction of the accused.

A searching enquiry into such cases is naturally of much assistance to the Native Court, as it, as far as is possible, precludes the possibility of a large number of trivial and unnecessary cases being taken for trial.

As would be expected, the large majority (2,344) were local Johannesburg cases.

It has been explained that the Pass Regulations provide for the transference of all convicted natives from the Gaol or Magistrate's Court to the Pass Office Compound. This furnishes a fair estimate of the incidence of crime in each district.

Such statistics cannot, however, be regarded as entirely accurate, but for purposes of general comparison the figures are considered sufficiently reliable.

An investigation of the natives convicted of various crimes and offences, who have passed through the compound at the Johannesburg Pass Office, and the territories to which they belong, is interesting.

9,600 natives were dealt with, and were either returned to their employers, as required by the Regulations, were given tickets to seek fresh employment, or returned home. Of this number 2,859 had been convicted for being drunk and disorderly, and for contravention of the Liquor Law, 723 for assault, 391 for theft, 159 housebreaking and 14 for seduction and rape.

The remainder were chiefly cases of desertion, or contravention of either the Pass Regulations, or the Master and Servants Law.

An analysis of the offenders, territorially, shows that both numerically and comparatively, natives from the Cape Colony are the chief delinquents. These natives, who represent 19 per cent. of the district labour supply, will be found to contribute 25.1 per cent. of the crime.

The following figures are of interest in comparing the more important sources of supply:—

Territory.	Percentage of Labour Supply.	Percentage of Crime Contributed.	Relation of Crime to Supply.
Cape Colony	19·0	25·1	+ 6·1
Natal and Zululand	16·7	18·8	+ 2·1
Basutoland	6·3	6·7	+ ·4
Transvaal	19·7	18·5	— 1·9
Portuguese East Africa	30·4	21·0	— 9·4

The position of the Cape Colony native is maintained throughout the various classes of crime.

Of 4,200 serious cases, it has been found that 1,100, or over one-fourth, are cases in which Cape Colony natives were the accused.

Natal and Zululand contributed 465 cases of drunk and disorderly and 157 cases of assault —both of which are abnormal; otherwise the record of these territories does not compare unfavourably with those of others.

The majority of cases in which convictions have been secured against natives from Portuguese East Africa are not of a serious nature. From a criminal point of view the record of these natives has been good.

When it be considered that an enormous native population of over 91,000 is congregated within the confines of the Johannesburg district; that it is drawn from all portions of South Africa; that the majority are of a low grade of civilisation; and that all are exposed to novel influences and conditions often of a demoralising character, one cannot but feel that the general conduct of the native races is as satisfactory in this district as can reasonably be expected.

A. Illicit Liquor Traffic.—B. Locations.—A considerable reduction in the number of locations in labour districts has been made during the past year.

On the 30th of June last there were 78 such locations, the adult population of which was:—

Males	10,033
Females	4,946
Total	14,979

Of the above 6 were controlled by Municipalities or Government Departments, 1 was controlled by a Mission, 50 were controlled by Mining Companies, and 21 were controlled by other companies or private individuals.

Since the inception of the Pass Commissioner's Branch of the Department of Native Affairs it has been the opinion of its officers that the proper control of locations was a fundamental factor in the government of the native population and the suppression of crime, and that lack of control admitted of locations becoming plague spots in which social, moral, and physical disease were disseminated amongst a population particularly susceptible to their influence.

Efforts have been made to secure a reasonable amount of control being exercised, and in some cases where owners or lessees have acted on representations made a great deal of good has resulted.

But in some cases the interests of the owners, who reap a rich harvest in rents, would suffer through a too vigorous administration, and representations, unsupported by authority, have utterly failed.

It will be observed that although the number of locations has been reduced, the number of adult males resident in locations remains practically unaltered.

The inference can only be that where a vigorous restraint is exercised, and locations are demolished, the male inhabitants have little difficulty in finding refuge in other locations into which, in consequence of the increased fees which accrue to the owners, or lessees, they are probably welcomed.

The control of the Illicit Liquor Traffic is to a large extent dependent upon an organised and effectual supervision of locations.

The traffic may be divided under two heads:—

(*a*) The sale of various concoctions manufactured by natives and containing various percentages of alcohol and known under the general term "Kaffir Beer."

(*b*) The more nefarious trade in strong spirituous liquor of bad quality carried on by low-class Europeans.

The control of locations practically disposes of the former, and any improvement which has to be recorded, may be said to be in direct proportion to what has been done in this respect, and to be localised to such locations as have been brought under proper supervision.

But while the manufacture, sale, and consumption of Kaffir beer obtains almost entirely amongst natives, the possession and sale of the stronger spirituous liquors is confined more to low-class Europeans and others, who utilise, usually, the services of so-called Cape boys and their women in prosecuting the traffic.

Any cases of the latter which have come to the notice of this Department have been handed over to the police, who have been, and are, actively engaged in its suppression.

Much assistance in this matter has been afforded to the Government by the mines and other large employers of labour, who have usually spared no efforts to aid in preventing any serious increase in the illicit liquor traffic, by timely warnings to the authorities when attempts have been made to deal in such on and around their properties, and who fully realise that their working efficiency is largely dependent upon its suppression.

It is regrettable that owing to the difficulties of proof, charges, in cases of this nature usually have to be confined to "being in possession of liquor," instead of the more serious offence of "supplying liquor to natives."

Registration Certificates.—The number of registration certificates held by natives in labour districts has been reduced during the year from 556 to 450. (Appendix No. 53.)

The reduction has been due to the stricter policy as regards the issue of these certificates, which has been employed by this Department during the year.

There being no provision in Ordinance 28 of 1902 for the cancellation of such certificates, it is apparent that the holder, however unsatisfactory his conduct may be, is entitled to exemption from the Pass Regulations until its expiry, and is therefore immune from proper supervision.

In a number of cases certificates have not been renewed upon application, either because the applicant's record during the year has not been such as to warrant the extension of the privilege, or on account of his having given up the trade or calling, in virtue of which the certificate was originally granted.

The Territorial Analysis of natives holding Registration Certificates shows that their issue is still chiefly confined to natives from the Cape Colony, Transvaal, Natal and Zululand, and Basutoland, 70 per cent. being held by natives from the first two territories.

Town Inspection.—The number of natives falling within the jurisdiction of the Town Inspector, who deals, almost exclusively, with employers of over 20 labourers, has increased from 12,710 to 14,848.

The class of natives employed are, in many cases, much less tractable than natives employed on the mines, and, in consequence of the absence of compound accommodation, are not under the same code of discipline.

It is not surprising therefore that this officer has to enquire into a large number of complaints, the majority of which are in connection with wages.

Under this head alone upwards of 1,000 cases were dealt with, the amount involved being very nearly £3,000, of this amount approximately one-third was recovered while £750 is still under litigation.

S. M. Pritchard,
Pass Commissioner,
Native Affairs Department.

Johannesburg, October, 1905.

APPENDIX No. III.

EXTRACTS FROM REPORT OF THE GOVERNMENT MINING ENGINEER FOR YEAR ENDING 30TH JUNE, 1905.

Office of the Government Mining Engineer,
Johannesburg, September 30, 1905.

The Acting Commissioner of Mines,
Johannesburg.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to present my Report for the year ended 30th June, 1905.
This Report is divided into the following sections:—

I. Labour and Wages.
II. Mineral Output.
III. Accidents and Prosecutions.*
IV. Machinery.*
V. Explosives and Stores.†
VI. Technical Examinations†
VII. General.*

The following Appendix† is also attached:—

Schedule of Government Commission to consider the Question of the Safety of Persons Travelling in Shafts.

SECTION I.

LABOUR AND WAGES.

LABOUR.

Number Employed.—The following table shows the total number of persons employed in the Mines and Works of the Transvaal as at 30th June, 1905, and enables a comparison to be drawn between these figures and those for the corresponding date in the preceding year:—

Description of Mines and Works.	30th June, 1905.			30th June, 1904.		
	Whites.	Coloured.	Chinese.	Whites.	Colonred.	Chinese.
Gold producing—						
Gold Mines	16,989	104,902	41,340	13,413	74,632	1,004
Metallurgical and Chemical Works	28	200	—	23	126	—
Tailings Syndicates	6	70	—	6	32	—
Alluvial Workings	7	12	—	5	31	—
Coal Mines	462	9,567	—	485	8,858	—
Diamond Mines	601	3,665	—	251	2,289	—
Tin Mines	65	660	—	4	54	—
Lead Mines	17	124	—	13	110	—
Cobalt Mines	—	—	—	2	32	—
Copper Mines	8	95	—	7	50	—
Other Mines and Works	327	3,142	—	251	2,353	—
Totals	18,510	122,437	41,340	14,460	88,567	1,004

PERCENTAGE OF LABOUR AT WORK ABOVE AND BELOW GROUND.—GOLD AND COAL MINES, TRANSVAAL.

YEAR 1904-1905.

Mines.	Whites.		Coloured.		Chinese.		Total.	
	Below.	Above.	Below.	Above.	Below.	Above.	Below.	Above.
Gold Mines	42·15	57·85	67·18	32·82	79·18	20·82	65·97	34·03
Coal Mines	23·33	76·97	63·04	36·96	—	—	60·99	39·01

* Extract only printed.

† Not printed.

The *number of employés* on the producing, as compared with the non-producing Gold Mines of the Transvaal, is as follows:—

Date.	Gold Mines.					
	Producing.			Non-Producing.		
	Whites.	Coloured.	Chinese.	Whites.	Coloured.	Chinese.
30th June, 1905	13,786	92,407	36,320	3,203	12,495	5,020
30th June, 1904	10,671	65,542	—	2,742	9,090	1,004
Increase	3,115	26,865	36,320	461	3,405	4,016

The gold mines in the Witwatersrand area employed 93·7 per cent. of the total persons directly employed on the gold mines of the country for the year 1904-1905.

The ratio of white to coloured persons employed on the gold mines of the Witwatersrand from July, 1899, to June, 1905, is as under:—

Date.	Whites.	Coloured.
July, 1899	1	8·578
June, 1902	1	4·343
June, 1903	1	5·383
June, 1904 (including Chinese)	1	5·434
June, 1905 (including Chinese)	1	8·457

Witwatersrand Gold Mines.

The total number of persons employed by the Witwatersrand Gold Mines is as under:—

Date.	Producing Mines.			Non-Producing Mines.		
	Whites.	Coloured.	Chinese.	Whites.	Coloured.	Chinese.
30th June, 1905	13,163	84,318	36,320	2,995	10,991	5,020
30th June, 1904	10,229	60,878	—	2,501	7,296	1,004

Outside Districts.

The following table gives the labour employed by the Gold Mining Industry in districts outside the Witwatersrand area on the 30th June, 1905:—

District.	Date.	Producing Mines.		Non-Producing Mines.	
		Whites.	Coloured.	Whites.	Coloured.
Pretoria District, including Barberton, Lydenburg and Pietersburg	June 30/05	398	5,570	87	973
	June 30/04	330	3,378	123	931
Increase	... ...	68	2,192	—	42
Decrease	... ...	—	—	36	—
Heidelberg Magisterial District	June 30/05	170	2,014	22	168
	June 30/04	89	1,045	67	538
Increase	... ...	81	969	—	—
Decrease	... ...	—	—	45	370
Klerksdorp Mining District	June 30/05	55	505	99	363
	June 30/04	23	241	51	325
Increase	... ...	32	264	48	38

Coloured and Chinese in service and at work on Gold Mines of the Transvaal.—The average number of coloured persons and Chinese *in service* and *at work* during the year ended the 30th June, 1905, was as under:—

Year.	Coloured.				Chinese.			
	In service.	At Work.	Percentage Working.	Percentage Non-Efficient.	In service.	At Work.	Percentage Working.	Percentage Non-Efficient.
1904–5	89,846	83,096	92·49	7·51	22,890	19,896	86·92	13·08
1903–4	74,139	67,844	91·51	8·49	*1,004	*865	86·16	13·84

* For the month of June, 1904, only.

During the year the highest and lowest percentages at work were as under:—

Classification.	Highest.	Lowest.
Coloured	93·50 per cent.—Feb., 1905.	91·38 per cent.—April, 1905.
Chinese	90·17 per cent.—Dec., 1904.	79·53 per cent.—July, 1904.

Coloured Convicts.—A few mines continue to employ coloured convicts on surface works. During the year ended 30th June, 1905, there were about 678 employed in the Witwatersrand area and nine in the Klerksdorp district.

Collieries.

The number of persons employed on the collieries of the Transvaal is here shown compared with the number employed in the previous year:—

Month.	Producing.		Non-Producing.		Total.	
	Whites.	Coloured.	Whites.	Coloured.	Whites.	Coloured.
June, 1905	418	9,274	44	293	462	9,567
June, 1904	462	8,770	23	88	485	8,858
Increase	—	504	21	205	—	709
Decrease	44	—	—	—	23	—

Coal Areas.—The following table shows how this labour is distributed over the different coal areas:—

Month.	Springs Brakpan.		Middelburg.		Other Districts.	
	Whites.	Coloured.	Whites.	Coloured.	Whites.	Coloured.
June, 1905	178	3,768	192	4,623	92	1,176
June, 1904	183	3,582	221	4,082	81	1,194
Increase	—	186	—	541	11	—
Decrease	5	—	29	—	—	18

Coloured Persons at Work.—The following figures afford a comparison between the number of coloured persons *in the service of*, and the number *actually at work in*, the collieries of the Transvaal during the year ended 30th June, 1905:—

Year.	In Employ.	Actually at Work.	Percentage working.	Percentage non-efficient.
1904–5	9,140	8,276	90·55	9·45
1903–4	8,906	7,984	89·65	10·35

During the year the highest and lowest percentages at work were as under:—

Highest, 93·75 per cent., August, 1904.
Lowest, 87·30 per cent., June, 1905.

Diamond Mines.

The average number of coloured persons in the service of diamond mines during the year 1904-1905 was 3,607, while the average number at work was 3,379, or 93·68 per cent.

The highest percentage at work during the year was 97·29 per cent. in November, 1904, and the lowest 91·12 per cent. in January, 1905.

Metallurgical and Chemical Works.

Labour figures for metallurgical and chemical works show a decrease on the average employed for the year 1904-1905, as compared with the previous year, although the figures for June, 1905, show an increase on those for June, 1904:—

Period.	Whites.	Coloured.
Year, 1904–1905	26	163
Year, 1903–1904	62	231
June, 1905	28	200
June, 1904	23	126

Unskilled White Labour.

The employment of unskilled whites has, I understand, had a fair trial with, generally speaking, unsatisfactory results. Since the advent of a more plentiful supply of coloured labour, managers have not been compelled to utilize the precarious services of unskilled whites to any large degree, and have generally reverted to the employment of coloured labourers for the bulk of the ordinary unskilled mining work.

A certain number of unskilled whites are still employed as machine-helpers, and a few of these eventually rise to good positions and make good wages. It is still found, however, that many white unskilled labourers take mining work as temporary employment only, and, by throwing up their work after short periods of service, disorganise the steady labour supply of the mine, and cannot be relied upon for any continuous period of steady work.

Natives.

The supply of native labour has lately increased to a considerable extent, and the increased supply has enabled the mines to select a better class of labourer and to make twelve-monthly contracts.

In eliminating the physically poorer class of native, and in being able to retain the services of raw labourers for at least twelve months of training in mining work, the mines should not only gain in efficiency, but the safety of the whole number of employees should be more easily secured by the fact that a better class of trained native will be employed instead of the numerous weedy and ignorant Kaffirs, who, when the demand far exceeded the supply, used to take employment underground for three months only, and leave their occupation just when they were becoming more or less efficient and were beginning to understand some of the dangers of underground work.

The conditions under which the native works have been considerably improved during the past few years, and it is a recognised fact that at the present time all coloured labourers on mines are well fed, well housed, and well looked after in every respect.

Salaries and Wages.

The total amount paid during the year for salaries and wages by mines and works in the Transvaal was £8,996,121, classified as under:—

Description.	Gold Mines.	Coal Mines.	Diamond Mines.	Other Mines.	Met. and Chem. Works and Tailings Syndicates.	Other Works, &c.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Salaries	807,950	62,007	20,834	6,062	3,699	2,484	903,036
Wages to Whites	4,165,547	110,595	86,328	11,876	5,030	78,081	4,757,457
Wages to Coloured	2,527,931	214,965	148,127	14,529	5,665	79,089	2,990,306
Wages to Chinese	345,322	...	...	...	...	...	345,322
Totals	8,146,750	387,567	255,289	32,467	14,394	159,654	8,996,121
Comparison with the year 1904–05.	6,443,267	378,455	120,535	26,723	155,798		7,124,778

White Wages.—The rate of pay for white employees remains practically unchanged; *vide* Table No. 8.

Native Wages.—The following table shows the average monthly wage paid to natives on gold and coal mines, and also illustrates the variation in the rate of pay before and since the war. In addition to his wages, the employer finds the native in food, housing, medical attendance, hospital, &c., free of charge:—

Year.	Gold.	Coal.
	s. d.	*s. d.*
Monthly average rate for 1898	47 1	46 11
„ „ „ „ 1901-1902	26 8	34 2
„ „ „ „ 1902-1903	38 6	37 2
„ „ „ „ 1903-1904	48 10	42 7
„ „ „ „ 1904-1905	52 0	42 9

Native Food.—The total amount expended by mines and works upon food, clothing, &c., for their native employees amounted to £421,006 for the past year, of which the gold mines of the Witwatersrand spent £321,681, or 76·4 per cent. Vegetables are included in the natives' rations, and, in addition to purchases, considerable quantities are raised in plots of ground specially set apart for that purpose near the mines.

The total cost of food supplied to natives employed on mines and works in the Transvaal averages 6s. 9·4d. per man per month, as against 10s. 1·2d. for the year 1903-1904.

On Gold Mines the average was 6s. 9·7d.
On Coal „ „ „ „ 8s. 1·1d.

Chinese Wages and Food.—The average wage earned by Chinese during the year 1904-1905 was 33s. 6d. per man per month, and the amount expended on Chinese foods was £201,736, or 14s. 8·3d. per Chinaman per month.

SECTION II.

Mineral Output.

Value of Total Output.

For the year ending 30th June, 1905, the value of the total mineral output of the Transvaal was £20,878,941, detailed as follows:—

Year.	Gold.	Silver.	Coal.	Diamonds.	Chemicals.	Stone, Lime, Machine-made Bricks, Salt, &c.	Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1904-5	18,361,144	54,221	874,856	1,198,530	21,634	365,556	20,878,941
1903-4	14,762,184	45,111	895,931	685,720	23,431	301,758	16,714,135
Increase	3,598,960	9,110	...	512,810	1,203	63,798	Increase. 4,164,806
Decrease	...	...	21,075	...	...	...	

Gold.

Output.—The total output from all sources for the year ending 30th June, 1905, amounted to 4,322,577·226 fine ounces, valued at £18,361,144, showing an increase over the preceding year of 847,266·001 fine ounces, valued at £3,598,960.

The following comparative table shows the various districts and sources from which the total output for the year has been derived:—

Classification.	1904-1905.		1903-1904.	
	Ozs. Fine Gold.	Value £.	Ozs. Fine Gold.	Value £.
Gold Mines—Witwatersrand...	4,132,475·270	17,553,627	3,294,152·362	13,992,669
Do. —Other Districts	133,916·538	568,852	117,075·350	497,314
Metallurgical and Chemical Works... ...	47,329·386	201,043	59,684·826	253,516
Miscellaneous	8,856·032	37,622	4,398·687	18,685
Total	4,322,577·226	£18,361,144	3,475,311·225	£14,762,184

Tonnage Milled.—For the same periods the tons milled were:—

	1904-05.	1903-04.
	Tons.	Tons.
Witwatersrand Mines	9,570,143	7,280,728
Heidelberg...	71,449	49,358
Pretoria District Mines (Barberton, Lydenburg, Pietersburg)	273,044	264,285
Klerksdorp Mines	8,273	5,847
Total	9,922,909	7,600,218

Crushing Mines.—During the month of June, 1905, there were:—

66 Mines producing in the Witwatersrand dropping 6,639 Stamps.
2 „ „ at Heidelberg dropping 70 Stamps.
14 „ „ „ Barberton, Lydenburg and Pietersburg dropping 309 Stamps.
1 „ „ „ Do. No clean up.
2 „ „ „ Barberton. (Dry Crushing). No clean up.
2 „ „ „ Klerksdorp dropping 28 Stamps.
1 „ „ „ Klerksdorp. Using Battery as a crusher.
1 „ „ „ Klerksdorp. No clean up.

89 „ „ in the Transvaal.

Stamps at Work.—The number of stamps at work on all gold mines increased during the year from 4,937 in July, 1904, to 7,046 in June, 1905, and averaged 5,939 running for 339·126 days, which is, theoretically, equivalent to 5,518 stamps running continuously throughout the full year. The theoretical average for the previous year was 4,322

The number of stamps erected as at 30th June, 1905, was 9,349, as detailed in the machinery section of this report.

Stamp Duty, &c.—The number of tons crushed per stamp per day of 24 hours was 4·927, as against a duty of 4·805 tons for the year 1903-04, and as against 4·561 tons for 1898.

For each ton of ore milled, excluding dry crushing 1·238 tons of rock were raised.
„ oz. fine gold produced 2·843 „ „
„ stamp at work 6·101 „ „ per day.

The producing mines of the Witwatersrand during June, 1905, employed 20·15 persons per stamp as against 15·99 in July, 1899, while the tons of ore milled per person at work was 8·54 as against 8·46 in July, 1899.

Comparisons.—The following is a comparison in respect of the gold mines of the Transvaal between August, 1899, and June, 1905:—

	June, 1905.	August, 1899.
Number of stamps at work (Transvaal)	7,046	6,070
Tons of ore crushed (Transvaal)	973,357	856,233
Duty per Stamp per day (Witwatersrand only)	5·018	4·86
*Total yield (inclusive) Transvaal	412345·071	410965·05
*Dwts. fine gold per ton crushed (Transvaal)	8·473	9·599
*Yield from mills only (Transvaal)	262840·035	265584·10
*Percentage of yield from Mills to total (Transvaal) ...	63·743	64·624

Ore Value per Ton.—During the year the yield per ton milled (including 47,136 tons treated by dry crushing process), based on the officially declared output, which does not include gold contained in bye-products not treated at the mines, was 8·558 dwts. or 36·351 shillings per ton. Including the gold estimated to be contained in products sold, the total yield per ton milled was 8·659 dwts. or 36·781 shillings.

In the Witwatersrand district 47 gold-producing mines were working main reef series as outcrop companies and 20 as deep level companies. The yield per ton milled (including estimated amount of gold contained in by-products) from the former was 36·888 shillings, and from the latter 37·123 shillings.

List of Gold Mines.—A classified list of the mines and works which contributed to this year's gold output will be found at the end of this Report (Table No. 15).

* For the purpose of comparison these figures include the gold extracted from the ore crushed by the mines, whether that gold was extracted by the mining companies themselves or by the metallurgical and chemical works who purchase concentrates, &c., for treatment.

Output Records.—The gold production of the Transvaal since 1884 is as follows:—

Calendar Year.	Value £.	Calendar Year.	Value £.
1884	10,096	1895	8,569,555
1885	6,010	1896	8,603,821
1886	34,710	1897	11,653,725
1887	169,401	1898	16,210,630
1888	967,416	1899	15,452,025
1889	1,490,568	1900	1,481,442
1890	1,869,645	1901	1,096,051
1891	2,924,305	1902	7,301,501
1892	4,541,071	1903	12,628,057
1893	5,480,498	1904	16,028,883
1894	7,667,152	1905 (Six months to June)...	10,075,682

Total production to 30th June, 1905—£134,292,244.

Gold Bullion Exported.

The following table shows the quantity and declared value of raw gold exported from the Transvaal during the period covered by this report:—

Classification.	To London.		To Paris and elsewhere.	
	Bullion.	Value.	Bullion.	Value.
	ozs.	£	ozs.	£
1. Gold bullion won prior to the British occupation, including gold lodged with various banks under the Proclamations of the Military Governors of Johannesburg and Pretoria of June, 1900.	461·410	1,640	—	—
2. Gold bullion declared by Gold Mining Companies and Metallurgical and Chemical Works as having been won during the year eoded 30th June, 1905.	4,874,137·068	17,903,391	—	—
3. Gold bullion declared by miscellaneous concerns during the year ended 30th June, 1905.	8,468·908	30,326	—	—
4. Gold bullion declared by mining companies in Swaziland as having been won during the year ended 30th June, 1905.	1,933·595	7,096	—	—
5. Foreign gold, being parcels of gold received by banks from Rhodesia and Natal.	96·420	260	—	—
Total Exports of Raw Gold	4,885,097·401	17,942,713	—	—

Metallurgical and Chemical Works.

The following metallurgical and chemical works contributed to the gold output during the year:—

Transvaal Gold Mining Estates, Ltd., Prospect Township.

Robinson Gold Mining Co., Ltd., Chlorination Works.

Brown Beves and Co.

Witwatersrand Smelting and Refining Co.

Glendalough Smelting and Refining Co.

H. H. Brown and Co.

City Recovery Works.

New Transvaal Chemical Co., Ltd.

The production of gold by these works amounted to 47,329·386 fine ounces, valued at £201,043, as against 59,684·826 fine ounces, value £253,516, in the previous year.

Mine Development.

As shown by the following table, the amount of development work done in gold mines

continues to increase. These figures do not include any development done by persons and syndicates who are merely prospecting:—

TRANSVAAL.

Year.	Producing.			Non-Producing.		
	Main Shaft Sinking.	Main Drives and Cross-cuts.	Other Development.	Main Shaft Sinking.	Main Drives and Cross-cuts.	Other Development.
1904–1905	18,166	275,135	117.479	21,321	83,634	27,499
1903–1904	12,800	188,908	86,921	19,803	112,407	40,229
Increase	5,366	86,227	30,558	1.518	—	—
Decrease	—	—	—	—	28,773	12,730

WITWATERSRAND ONLY.

Year.	Producing.			Non-Producing.		
	Main Shaft Sinking.	Main Drives and Cross-cuts.	Other Development.	Main Shaft Sinking.	Main Drives and Cross-cuts.	Other Development.
1904–1905	17,593	236,573	112,136	19,598	65,754	22,161
1903–1904	12,045	171,170	81,993	15,403	87,253	29,976
Increase	5,548	65,403	30,143	4,195	—	—
Decrease	—	—	—	—	21,499	7,815

Rock Drills.—The following statement shows the number of mines employing rock drill machines and the average number of machine drills in use since June, 1902:—

Month.	Witwatersrand.		Whole Transvaal.	
	No. of Mines using Rock Drills.	No. of Rock Drills in use.	No. of Mines using Rock Drills.	No. of Rock Drills in use.
1902—June	50	671·0	51	673·0
December	60	994·0	64	1,004·0
1903—June	68	1,313·7	72	1,339·7
December	72	1,561·2	76	1,577·2
1904—June	70	1,631·0	74	1,656·5
December	76	1,746·1	79	1,767·1
1905—June	78	1,647·4	81	1,667·9

Sorting. The average percentage of waste sorted from rock hoisted still continues steady. In June, 1905, the percentage of waste sorted was 16·90, as against 16·26 in June, 1904.

SILVER.

The quantity of silver estimated to be contained in the gold bullion declared for the year 1904-1905 amounted to 476,085·975 fine ounces, valued at £54.221, as against 406,676·944 fine ounces, valued at £45,111, for the previous year.

Details of the silver output are as under:—

Month.	Fine Ounces.	Value.
		£
1904—July	33,538·653	3,641
August	35,012·856	3,826
September	34,467·359	3,756
October	35,295·958	3,776
November	36,603·999	4,168
December	39,104·875	4,306
1905—January	40,482·641	4,506
February	39,899·824	4,450
March	43,964·215	4,891
April...	43,510·658	4,844
May	45,813·707	5,006
June	43,425·698	4,805
Total...	*476,085·975	54,221

* These figures represent the net output after the final adjustment of differences in assays as indicated by Account Sales received by the Mines from London.

There are no silver ores being mined in the Transvaal at the present time.

Coal.

Output.—During the year under review 2,513,824 tons of coal were sold by the collieries, valued at £874,856, or 6s. 11·52d. per ton at the pit's mouth.

The Transvaal output of coal during the past three years was as follows:—

Year.	Tons.	Value.
		£
1902–1903	1,969,089	782,906
1903–1904	2,370,465	985,931
1904–1905	2,513,824	874,856

The two largest coal-producing areas are Springs-Brakpan and Middelburg. These districts contributed 92 per cent. of the total production.

The following table gives the total production classified according to districts:—

District.	Tons.	Percentage of Total.	Value.	Value per Ton.
Springs-Brakpan Area:—			£	*s.* *d.*
Round	816,692	...	304,992	7 5·63
Nut	250,303	...	78,416	6 3·19
Fine	51,157	...	7,505	2 11·21
Total	1,118,152	44·48	390,913	6 11·91
Middelburg Area:—				
Round	971,908	...	334,370	6 10·57
Nut	215,037	...	61,706	5 8·87
Fine	2,507	...	271	2 1·94
Total	1,189,452	47·32	396,347	6 7·97
Other Districts:—				
Round	179,997	...	81,871	9 1·16
Nut	23,497	...	5,420	4 7·36
Fine	2,726	...	305	2 2·85
Total	206,220	8·20	87,596	8 5·94

Producing Collieries.—The names of collieries which contributed to the output will be found on Table 15.

Comparative Output.—The output of coal for each calendar year since 1893 is as under:—

Year.	Tons.	Value.	Value per Ton.
		£	s. d.
1893	548,534	257,454	9 4·64
1894	791,358	359,694	9 1·08
1895	1,133,466	516,215	9 1·30
1896	1,437,296	612,561	8 6·28
1897	1,600,212	612,668	7 7·88
1898	1,907,808	668,346	7 0·07
1899	1,735,282	619,406	7 1·66
1900	506,074	197,127	7 9·48
1901	797,144	329,113	8 3·08
1902	1,590,333	637,640	8 0·22
1903	2,253,677	877,976	7 9·50
1904	2,409,033	883,891	7 4·06
1905 (to June only)	1,263,931	421,394	6 8·02

The following is a comparison between August, 1899, and June, 1905:—

———	August, 1899.	June, 1905.
No. of Collieries producing	17	25
Tons of coal sold	205,059	237,022
Value at pit's mouth	£71,137	£76,203

Development.—Table No. 16, attached to this report, gives statistics of development in the Transvaal coal mines for the present year.

Diamonds.

The output for the Transvaal for the statistical year now under review was 995,002·51 carats, valued at £1,198,530, the Premier Mine accounting for the greater portion of this output.

The diamond output for the last twelve months was as follows:—

Date.	Carats.	Value.
		£
1904—July	85,330·75	117,667
August	105,060·38	151,481
September	91,765·00	111,204
October	84,154·81	94,087
November	84,718·50	100,259
December	77,852·50	86,251
1905—January	80,637·94	89,778
February	78,769·25	91,378
March	96,543·88	111,772
April	80,462·00	93,992
May...	69,745·50	80,551
June	59,962,00	70,110

The following mines contributed to the output during the year:—

Mines.—Premier (Transvaal) Diamond Mining Co., Ltd.
Montrose Diamond Mining Co., Ltd.
Kaalfontein Diamond Mining Co., Ltd.
Schuller Diamond Mines, Ltd.
Transvaal Estate and Development Co., Ltd.

Alluvial.—Pretoria Oriental Diamond Mining Co., Ltd.
Klipspruit Diamonds, Ltd.
Bynestpoort Diamond Mining Co., Ltd.
Pretoria District Diamonds, Ltd.
Christiana Diggings.

Other Mines.

The output from mines other than gold, coal, and diamond mines consisted of:—

1,120 tons of lead ore, and
123 tons of copper ore.

Swaziland Territory.

From January, 1905, three gold mines furnished returns; the output of gold amounted to 887·325 fine ounces, valued at £3,767.

The labour employed by these mines on the 30th June, 1905, averaged 5 whites and 571 coloured in the gold companies, and 18 whites and 202 coloured in a tin company.

Chemicals.

Output.—In addition to the gold produced by the metallurgical and chemical works, shown in Table No. 14, these works produced or recovered:—

	Value.
Chemicals	£22,459
Manures, paints, disinfectants, &c.	2,175
	£24,634

The increase in value over the previous year is £1,203.

Other Industrial Concerns.

Output.—The total output for the year was valued at £363,397, as against £300,977 for the previous year.

The following are the principal items which have been manufactured and sold, full details of which appear in Table No. 18:—

—	Value.	Comparison with previous year.
	£	£
Machine-made Bricks	187,898	114,698
,, ,, ,, (Fire-bricks)	9,412	8,726
,, ,, ,, (special, fancy and moulded) ...	7,733	2,425
Cement	5,637	24,355
Lime (blue)	40,091	16,628
,, (white)	27,958	56,486
,, (hydraulic)	3,992	—
Stone	46,530	37,704
Pipes (earthenware)	17,922	6,253
Slate	6,802	9,086

It will be noticed that the output of cement and slate has considerably decreased.

Salt Works.

The Zoutpansberg Salt Company is still the only salt-producing concern in the Transvaal. The sales for the year ended the 30th June, 1905, amounted to 1,016,400 lbs. of salt, valued at £2,159, against 291,508 lbs., valued at £781, for the previous year.

SECTION III.

Accidents and Prosecutions.

The total number of separate accidents reported to this department during the past year was 1,207, as compared with 895 for the year ending 30th June, 1904, being an increase of 312.

An allocation of the separate accidents on mines and a comparison with the previous year appear in the following table:—

—	1904–1905.	1903–1904.
On Gold Mines	1,107	784
„ Coal Mines	64	81
„ Diamond Mines	14	7
„ Other Mines	6	—
Total	1,191	872
Rate per 1,000 persons employed	8·36	8·89

Showing that although the total number of accidents has increased, the proportion of accidents to the number of persons employed has decreased.

The remaining 16 accidents not accounted for in the above table occurred in works, some of which do not come under the regulations for the return of labour statistics.

With the exception of a few unimportant cases, all accidents have been fully investigated by the Inspectors of Mines, who, especially in the Witwatersrand area, have spent the greater portion of their time in this class of work.

Ratio of Killed to Injured.—The ratio of killed to injured was, in the case of whites, 1 to 2·17; in the case of coloured, 1 to 1·41; and in the case of Chinese, 1 to 1·92.

The ratios of killed to injured for the years ended 31st December, 1898, 30th June, 1903, and 30th June, 1904, were:—

—	Whites.	Coloured.
1898	1 to 2·37	1 to 1·1
1902–1903	1 to 3·58	1 to 1·74
1903–1904	1 to 2·49	1 to 1·35

Fatal Accidents.

During the past year there were 602 deaths due to accidents on mines and works of the Transvaal, being an increase of 163 over the year ended 30th June, 1904. Of the 602 deaths, 76 were whites, 415 coloured, and 111 Chinese, as against 66 whites and 373 coloured persons killed during 1903-1904.

Of the 602 fatalities,

558	occurred on Gold Mines,
26	„ „ Coal Mines,
5	„ „ Diamond Mines,
6	„ „ Other Mines,
7	„ „ Metallurgical and other Works.
602	

Death-Rate.—The number of persons killed in mines only during the year ended 30th June, 1905, was 595, and the death-rates from accidents per annum per 1,000 persons at work were:—

—	Surface and Underground.	Surface.	Underground.
All employées	4·53	1·88	5·99
Whites	4·58	1·46	9·11
Coloured	4·30	1·81	5·62
Chinese	5·51	3·38	6·16

The annual death-rates from accidents on mines only per 1,000 persons at work for preceding years are as under:—

1896	4·89	against 4·53 for 1904-1905.
1897	4·30	
1898	4·31	
1901-1902	3·33	
1902-1903	4·04	
1903-1904	4·75	

Non-fatal Accidents.

In addition to 602 deaths, 964 persons were injured during the year on the mines and works of the Transvaal, being an increase of 298 over the previous year.

Of the 964 persons injured, 165 were white, 586 coloured, and 213 Chinese, as compared with 164 white and 502 coloured during the previous year.

Of the 964 persons above-mentioned injured,

892	were	injured	on	Gold Mines,
49	,,	,,	,,	Coal Mines,
9	,,	,,	,,	Diamond Mines,
4	,,	,,	,,	Other Mines,
10	,,	,,	,,	Works.
964				

Analysis of Casualties.—The following table shows the principal causes of accidents and the percentage of casualties resulting therefrom compared with the average percentage for the three previous years:—

Cause.	Percentage, 1904–5.	Percentage over three preceding years.
1. Explosives	26·82	16·32
2. Falls of Ground	20·31	18·03
3. Falling of Material	10·92	10·10
4. Trucks and Tramways	10·86	11·57
5. Machinery	10·35	14·29
6. Other causes	20·74	29·69
Total	100·00	100·00

Note.—The injuries reported to the Mines Department are such as in the opinion of an admitted physician may result in the injured person being incapacitated from work for at least 14 days.

The following table shows that 31 per cent. of all accidents and 26 per cent. of fatal accidents, which were reported to this department during the year, were due to the carelessness or ignorance of the persons injured or killed:—

All Accidents.

Owing to danger inherent to work itself.		Through fault of fellow-workmen.		Through carelessness or ignorance of injured person.		Owing to defective plant or material.		Total No. of separate Accidents.
No. of separate Accidents.	Per cent.	No. of separate Accidents.	Per cent.	No. of separate Accidents.	Per cent.	No. of separate Accidents.	Per cent.	
706	58·49	104	8·62	371	30·74	26	2·15	1,207

Fatal Accidents.

276	59·23	55	11·80	121	25·97	14	3·00	466

Statistics.—Complete statistics with regard to accidents will be found on Tables Nos. 19 to 24 inclusive, attached to this report.

* * * * * * *

Summary.

Seeing that the most important of this department's duties is to protect the lives of mine employees, and taking into consideration the exceptional number of ignorant coloured persons forming the majority of the miners, the question of mining accidents is at present foremost in the minds of myself and staff.

The matter having been considered from all possible aspects, I am of opinion that the following are the chief points upon which depends the safety of working miners, both white and coloured:—

(*a*) Additional personal mine-to-mine inspections by technical officers, which will involve an increase of staff and an addition to the Departmental Estimates.

(*b*) The strict enforcement of the regulations with regard to the plugging of all old sockets with severe penalties for gross carelessness when life has been endangered thereby.

(*c*) The assistance of mine managers, mine overseers, and shift bosses in insisting on the proper carrying out of the Mining Regulations and in reporting any contravention of these safety Regulations.

(*d*) Some more efficient method of enabling the coloured labourers to receive intelligible instructions from their white gangers, and to prevent the frequent misunderstandings that occur through the white miner being ignorant of both Chinese and native languages.

The staff of Mine Inspectors during the past year consisted of:—

3 Inspectors,
3 Deputy Inspectors,
3 Assistant Inspectors,
or 9 in all.

The staff as provided for in the present estimates will consist of:—

3 Inspectors,
4 Deputy Inspectors,
6 Assistant Inspectors,
or 13 in all.

This number will, after deducting those officers employed on work other than actual mine inspections, and those absent on leave, permit of a certain number being constantly employed on mine inspection work.

Anticipating that the total number of employees on the mines will reach 200,000 (178,776 in June) during the present year, the ratio will be from 18,000 to 20,000 to each Inspector.

From past data it is calculated that there will be about 14 accidents to report upon monthly by each Inspector, which should leave sufficient time for him to carry out his ordinary inspection duties.

There are about 220 working mines in the Transvaal, or an average of 22 to each Inspector. In this country the duties of Inspectors of Mines are exceptionally varied and arduous on account of the fact that approximately 90 per cent. of the labour may be classed as unskilled.

Even with a ratio of Inspectors to mine employees equal to that obtaining in the United Kingdom, it is scarcely to be expected that the casualty rate can ever become as low as it is there for the following reasons:—

(*a*) In England, in so far as the non-fatal accidents are concerned, the statistics are very imperfect owing to there being no definite standard of severity fixed by statute. This fact has been commented in by the Chief Inspector of Mines, England, in his last three Annual Reports.

In the Transvaal, on the other hand, the non-fatal accident statistics are somewhat exaggerated owing to the clear definition of the word "accident" in the Mining Regulations, which leaves no loophole for misunderstanding. In practice it is found that many accidents of a most trivial nature are reported.

(*b*) There is little doubt that the more hearty co-operation of mine managers in maintaining discipline amongst mine employees, especially by the strict enforcement of their special rules, and the reporting of all cases of contravention which come to their notice, would tend greatly to reduce the number of accidents, thirty-six per cent. of which are due to the carelessness and ignorance of the workmen.

More especially should attention be drawn to the fact that in England ninety per cent. of the prosecutions are instituted by the mine owner or manager, whereas in this country this work is entirely carried out by the Inspectors of Mines, only one case being recorded when legal proceedings were instituted on the initiative of a mine manager.

(*c*) During the past three years many Europeans have been employed as miners who had no previous experience or training, a state of things due in the first instance to the desire to give employment to persons who, owing to the war, were without occupation, and latterly due to the deficiency of skilled miners in this country, whose numbers have not kept pace with the expansion of the industry. The white man, acting as he does as an overseer over a gang of coloured workmen, should in all cases be a fully qualified miner.

Not only do the so-called "skilled white miners" leave a great deal to be desired as regards general and satisfactory mining knowledge, but there are in this Colony about 160,000 coloured persons employed in the dangerous trade of mining, the majority of whom are careless of both their own and their comrades' safety, and are ignorant of the most essential working precautions, such as the safety of their working places, the danger of machinery and electricity, and the sensitiveness of explosives.

(*d*) Another fact that should be borne in mind is that nearly all white miners are ignorant of the native and Chinese languages, and are, in consequence, unable to make themselves clearly understood. It is the opinion of both Magistrates and Inspectors of Mines that the language difficulty, the confusion in giving and taking orders, and the lack of intelligible instruction have a great deal to do with the number of mining accidents, and are often the cause of fatal misunderstandings.

In concluding my remarks upon accidents, I have to state that the support we are receiving from the Law Officers of the Crown is having a most beneficial effect in the carrying out of the most important safety regulations. From the head of the Law Department down to the

junior officials we are obtaining both advice and assistance, and the recently adopted system whereby the technical staff act in conjunction with the local Public Prosecutors is rendering the duty of upholding the Mining Regulations much more useful and satisfactory than formerly.

Mine Managers as a body have expressed their willingness to co-operate with us in special safety measures and precautions. Among the arduous duties of a well run mine it is, perhaps, too much to expect the detailed assistance from the heads of departments that we consider would so materially assist us, but serious safety recommendations made by Inspectors are usually expeditiously carried out without any question, and the case of certain Mine Managers who have engaged extra skilled miners for the special work of timbering and the inspection of hanging walls, shows that we can count on the assistance of the mine authorities whenever possible.

Though not always able to meet the views and wishes of the various organised Labour Associations, I have at all times found their committees and responsible heads anxious to assist in any scheme for protecting the life of the working miner, and most willing to acquiesce in the punishment of any person who by carelessness or neglect has endangered the lives of his fellow-workmen.

Compensation Paid to Mine Employees as Result of Accidents.

On reference to Table No. 24 it will be noticed that on gold and coal mines compensation to the amount of £19,263 19s. 6d. was paid in respect of 58 deaths amongst whites, an average payment of £332 2s. 9d. per death; £1,866 10s. was paid in respect of 166 deaths amongst natives, and £1,065 in respect of 104 deaths amongst Chinese.

The number of whites injured who received compensation was 1,414, amongst whom the sum of £16,275 2s. 3d. was distributed, an average of £11 10s. 2d. per white person injured.

The total amount paid by mines and works in respect of compensation for deaths and injuries is as under:—

To Whites	... ...	£35,539	1 9
„ Natives	... ...	2,228	15 0
„ Coloured	... ...	1,200	0 0
Total	... ...	£38,967	16 9

In the majority of cases the relatives of natives and Chinese received £10 in respect of each death from accidents.

For each life lost through accidents compensation to the amount of £67 13s. 5d. was paid, while the average amount paid in respect of injuries was £10 17s. 3d. per person.

Prosecutions.

During the past year proceedings were instituted by this Department in 127 different cases for contraventions under the Mines, Works and Machinery Ordinance of 1903 and the Regulations framed thereunder, and in five different cases under Law 27 of 1896 (the Explosive Law):—

15	were	against	Managers of Mines.
3	„	„	Engineers on „
4	„	„	Overseers on „
1	was	„	a Shift Boss.
2	were	„	Hauling Engine-Drivers.
2	„	„	Loco. „ „
1	was	„	a Skipman.
3	were	„	Onsetters.
91	„	„	Miners.
2	„	„	Natives.
3	„	„	Managers and Owners of Industrial Concerns.
5	„	„	Private Persons (well sinkers, &c.).

A summary of each prosecution will be found in Table No. 25.

Of the 15 cases brought against Managers of Mines, 2 were for failing to provide proper sanitary arrangements and change houses, 2 for permitting Sunday labour, 1 for using a winding engine to haul persons without the Inspector's permission and the balance for miscellaneous offences consisting chiefly in omissions to provide safety measures as required by the Mines and Works Regulations.

Regarding the 91 prosecutions of miners, 39 were for working on Good Friday, 36 for neglecting to plug mis-fires and allowing the deepening of old sockets, and the remainder mostly concerning the keeping of explosives and the examination of working places.

Both of the actions against natives were for tampering with mine signals whereby three natives lost their lives.

One of the cases against industrial firms was for hindering a Government Official in the execution of his duties, while the remaining two were for the non-observance of the Regulations relating to boilers.

Of the total 132 cases submitted to the Courts, convictions were obtained in respect of 104, and fines aggregating £757 were imposed. In two instances imprisonment with hard labour was inflicted without the option of a fine.

Insufficient evidence, faulty indictments, &c., contributed to the discharge or withdrawal of the remaining 28 cases.

SECTION IV.

Machinery.

The work performed by the Inspectors of Machinery during the year under review includes the following:—

2,211 external examinations of boilers;
2,134 internal examinations of boilers; and
1,191 hydraulic tests.

In addition to the performance of these duties, 1,125 official visits have been made to mines and works for other purposes, such as examination and test of winding plant, inquiry into the circumstances attending accidents, inspection of fencing and guards fitted to moving machinery, and there have been 34 official attendances at inquests and prosecutions.

Full particulars concerning the power and value of boilers, engines, and machinery in the Transvaal will be found in Tables Nos. 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, and 32.

The following is an extract of the more important details:—

Boilers:—

Total number	3,295	
Fire grate area	79,996	sq. ft.

Prime Motive Machinery:—

Total number	2,879	
Total power	294,219	i.h.p.

Lorries, Traction Engines, Steam Waggons, &c.:—

Total number	209	
Total power	7,943	i.h.p.

Driven Machinery:—

Total power	233,394	h.p.

Intermediate Machinery:—

Compressed air	61,157 h.p.	
Electrical	44,700 h.p.	
Hydraulic	234 h.p.	
	106,091	h.p.

Machinery of 145,084 h.p. is driven by steam power (direct).
Machinery of 30,064 h.p. is driven, and lighting to the extent of 7,677 k.w., is effected by electrical power (produced, 96 per cent. by steam power and 4 per cent. by water power).
Machinery of 43,435 h.p. is driven by compressed air (produced, 99 per cent. by steam power and 1 per cent. by electrical power).
Machinery of 2,734 h.p. is driven by hydraulic power (94·5 per cent. natural and 5·5 per cent. produced by steam).
Machinery of 1,841 h.p. is driven by oil and gas engines.
Complete plant of 248,768 h.p. and value £17,058,783 is erected for gold mines and allied concerns.
Complete plant of 6,643 h.p. and value £632,556 is erected for coal mining.
Complete plant of 2,082 h.p. and value £219,592 is erected for diamond mining.
Complete plant of 229 h.p. and value £13,482 is erected for other mining.
Complete plant of 36,497 h.p. and value £1,683,946 is erected for industrial concerns.

New Machinery and Plant.

Compared with the previous year, the foregoing statistics show increases for 1904-5 as under:—

43,451 h.p.	value £1,877,190	...	for gold mining and allied concerns.
1,376 h.p.	„ 148,562	...	for coal mining.
1,432 h.p.	„ 132,711	...	for diamond mining.
144 h.p.	„ 5,987	...	for other mines.
7,293 h.p.	„ 26,300	...	for industrial concerns.

The mining industry is concerned in these increases to the extent of 46,403 h.p., and value £2,164,450. Including the increase in the value of buildings on mines, viz., £1,092,740, the total increase in value is £3,257,190.

The increase in the value of machinery shown above (£2,164,450) does not, however, represent the real value of new plant, as the following facts have to be taken into consideration:—

(*a*) The returns furnished to the Mines Department for the year 1904-5 include figures for machinery to the value of £425,635, owned by companies whose returns were not available for inclusion in the previous year's statistics.

(*b*) In many cases a certain percentage has been written off for depreciation. It has not been ascertained to what extent the practice has obtained, but it may be assumed that four per cent. would be a fair average, and on this basis the sum of £782,805 would represent the depreciation written off.

Deducting from the total £3,257,190 the sum of £425,635, alluded to in (*a*), and adding the amount of £782,805, explained in (*b*), a sum of £3,614,360 is arrived at, which may be taken to represent approximately the value of the new machinery, plant, and buildings erected on mines during the year. Of this sum an amount of £1,020,650 is accounted for by sundry items of machinery and spares that were required for replenishment, as shown under items "Machinery and Machine Tools," and "Electric Light and Power Fittings," in the "Stores Consumed," Table No. 35.

The balance of £2,593,710 is the amount that was spent on the equipment of new mines and on the extension of the plants of other mines. Such outlay would most probably be charged to capital expenditure and would therefore not be reflected in a statement of value of stores and material issued for consumption or replacement. This expenditure of over two and a half millions appears therefore to represent the outlay in connection with the new equipment and the large increases of plant in such mines as the New Goch, Angelo, Driefontein Consolidated, New Comet, Knights Deep, New Kleinfontein, Simmer and Jack Proprietary, Witwatersrand Deep, and the Premier Diamond Mine.

The following table shows the value of the chief items of plant on gold mines for 1905, compared with 1904:—

Classification.	1904.	1905.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Water purifyiug plant	30,384	49,775	19,391	—
Boilers, other than those of locos, traction engines and steam wagons.	1,329,696	1,623,609	293,913	—
Headgears	787,457	875,649	88,192	—
Steam engines and appliances for hoisting	1,048,940	1,252,938	203,998	—
Compressed air motors and appliances for hoisting	24,924	37,149	12,525	—
Electric motors and appliances for hoisting	20,058	26,073	6,015	—
Engines and appliances for pumping	757,134	863,596	106,462	—
Engines for air compressing, including compressors, pipes, drills, &c.	1,175,604	1,334,481	158,877	—
Engines for other purposes	611,473	706,191	94,718	—
Electrical plant other than that previously shown	807,349	942,597	135,248	—
Steam locomotive plant, including traction engines, steam lorrics, rails, &c.	275,385	309,658	34,273	—
Mechanical haulage, plaut, rails, &c.	326,484	437,766	111,282	—
Reduction plant, excluding engines	3,008,180	3,231,394	223,214	—
Treatment plant, including furnaces, &c.	2,642,681	3,080,139	437,458	—
Workshop plaut, excluding engines and motors	392,028	448,429	56,401	—
Mine ventilation plant, excluding engines, compressors, and motors.	15,514	20,418	4,904	—
Diamond drills (property of company)	18,875	25,811	6,936	—
Other items not shown previously (gross)	1,835,877	1,752,825	—	83,052
Buildings	3,583,091	4,636,270	1,053,179	—
Totals	18,691,134	21,655,068	3,046,986	83,052
			83,052	
		Net Increase	2,963,934	

SECTION VII.

* * * * * * *

General.

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Miner's Phthisis.

During the past year the recommendations of the Special Phthisis Commission have not resulted in the voluntary use to any extent of dust-laying appliances underground, and owing to the indifferent manner in which practical dust-laying methods have been received by those persons for whose benefit the whole subject of phthisis prevention was investigated, it has been found necessary to draft certain regulations which, under powers to be conferred by the New Mines Works and Machinery Amendment Ordinance, can be made law by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council.

The new Phthisis Regulations, which are now under discussion, are based on the recent English rules and altered to meet local circumstances.

It is intended to add the Phthisis Rules to Article 146 of the present Mining Regulations, and they will form additions to the Health Rules now in force.

For all practical purposes the chief causes of this phthisis disease may be summed up as follows:—

1. Returning immediately after firing to a face to re-blast a cut or to charge and blast casing holes.

This has probably been responsible for the majority of deaths from phthisis.

2. Drilling in rises or dry holes in any place. The general dustiness of working places, and the large amount of dust disturbed when shovelling after a blast.

It will not be possible to fix any hard and fast rule as to what shall be the actual means employed to damp the fines proceeding from percussion drills or generally to allay the irritating dust in mines, but with the general principles laid down by law it appears reasonable to suppose that Mine Managers by the use of water sprays or other means will be able, in a large degree, to prevent the escape of dust into the underground workings.

Ventilation.

The Chemist to the Mines Department, assisted by an Inspector of Mines, has done a considerable amount of research work, more especially with reference to the amount of air circulating through the workings of the Ferreira Deep Mine.

A large number of air samples have been taken in different sections of the mine to arrive at the quality of the air passing through the workings, while the quantity of air available has been measured at all parts of the mine and under varying conditions, extending over a period of twelve months.

There is no doubt but that the ascertaining of the different amounts of air passing through a mine at different periods of the year is very important, but as far as these different amounts directly affect the health of the workmen either one way or another, the measurements of quantity alone are of themselves unimportant.

The amount of air varies greatly. It was found that in the cold dry weather about 58,000 cubic feet of air circulated, while, on the other hand, when the weather was hot and damp, the amount of air was only 14,000 cubic feet, showing that the supply is to a large exteut governed by climatic influences.

From the results of the analyses of the samples taken, it was found that in summer the air of the mine is to a large extent too highly vitiated to be considered anything like good, and that the general air supply is slightly vitiated by the fumes given off by a furnace used to re-heat the air.

The results of analysis of samples showed that the air in the down-cast shaft contained ·035 per cent. CO_2, while that in the up-cast shaft, after passing through the various workings, contained ·1 per cent., this latter figure being, in the opinion of some authorities, the greatest amount permissible.

The air in the eastern and central sections of the Ferreira Deep Mine is, as a rule, not vitiated beyond the amount stated as permissible; in fact, the percentage of CO_2 is low, but the air in the western portion of the mine, west of the west shaft, is badly vitiated, and there is little doubt but that this section depends to a large extent on the air delivered from the compressors, and that any air that enters this section is more or less contaminated before it arrives at the various workings.

If the western section of the mine is to a large extent dependent on the air from compressors, this supply may be satisfactory to those employed at the point where it escapes, but those working at a distance from this point do not get a supply of pure air.

While from the investigations valuable information has been obtained, further research is necessary in order to obtain more information regarding the quality of the air in the various workings.

The quality of the air in mine workings appears to be the first and most important consideration, and this being so, the question of ventilation depends to a considerable extent upon the important point as to *what percentage of noxious gases is permissible in mine air* so that the health of the workers is not impaired, or only impaired to a very small degree.

Further experiments will probably arrive at the different percentages of noxious gases, and from these percentages the necessary quantity of air may be determined.

It should always be borne in mind that the quantity of air passing through a mine has very little to do with the quality of the air in the various workings, and the whole question of ventilation in the mines of the Witwatersrand may be summed up in the following:—

(1) The quality of the air where persons are employed;

(2) The most inexpensive system of obtaining the necessary quality in the various underground workings.

It is certain that the quality of the air has a direct bearing on the health of those working underground, and there is little doubt but that the quality of the air should be such that the health of the workmen is not impaired.

Ventilation and miners' phthisis are subjects that have to be considered together in improving health conditions underground, and general ventilation sufficient to remove noxious gases and to assist in the prevention of an accumulation of dust in mine workings will greatly assist in the prevention of the various diseases to which miners are subject.

Mine Sanitation.

I am satisfied by personal inspection and from the reports of the District Inspectors that the sanitary conditions of the mines along the Reef have improved to a large extent, and that Mine Managers are to-day carrying out the Sanitary Regulations as laid down and that the conditions of the underground workings are satisfactory.

In conjunction with the Medical Officer of Health considerable attention has been given to this important matter by Inspectors during the past year, and a regular system of sanitation is enforced on all working mines.

While the different mines are strictly complying with the letter of the law and have greatly improved the condition of their underground workings, there are still several improvements in detail that the Inspectors consider should be effected.

Certain suggestions regarding the actual carrying out of sanitary regulations have recently been submitted to the medical authorities. These I consider will facilitate the work of Mine Managers in keeping their workings clean, and will benefit both white and coloured employees.

A departmental arrangement has been made with the Medical Officer of Health in regard to the supervision of sanitary conditions on mines so as to prevent any overlapping of Government inspection duties and to cause as little inconvenience to the mine officials as possible.

* * * * * * *

Working Costs.

Owing to the different methods in which mine accounts are kept by the various mining groups, it has been found impossible to collect data as to working costs of the mines in any one district which would be of sufficiently uniform character to convey any useful information when tabulated from the individual mine returns. Through the courtesy of the General Manager of the Rand Mines, Limited, the following figures of working costs for the subsidiary companies of that group for the six months ending 30th June, 1905, are published.

These costs may be taken as representative of the working costs of the gold mines in the Witwatersrand area:—

Tons mined	1,175,674.	Sands treated	601,178.
Tons milled	982,815.	Concentrates treated ...	89,248.
		Slimes treated	284,855.
			975,281.

Mining Expenses:—

	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	Per Ton Mined.	Per Ton Milled.
General Costs and Maintenance ...	50,108 1 5		10·229	
Developing	93,463 19 8		1 7·079	
Stoping	377,288 10 10		6 5·019	
Shovelling in Stopes	117,149 6 8		1 11·915	
Tramming	55,516 0 10		11·333	
Winding	68,854 19 1		1 2·056	
Pumping	21,250 15 6		4·338	
		783,631 14 0	13 3·969	15 11·360

Milling Expenses:—

			Per Ton Milled.	
General Costs	2,713 7 8		·663	
Ore Sorting	15,348 1 2		3·748	
Ore Crushing	12,490 3 10		3·050	
Ore Transport	4,824 16 7		1·178	
Milling	95,866 15 5		1 11·410	
Retorting, Smelting and Assaying	2,475 0 1		·604	
		133,718 4 9		2 8·653

Cyaniding Expenses.—Sands:—

			Per Ton Treated.	
Filling and Discharging	26,856 5 7		10·721	
Leaching and Precipitating ...	39,553 6 5		1 3·790	
Smelting and Assaying	4,210 15 11		1·681	
	70,620 7 11		2 4·192	
Concentrates:—				
Filling and Discharging	4,565 11 2		1 0·277	
Leaching and Precipitating ...	12,949 14 4		2 10·824	
Smelting and Assaying	1,411 7 11		3·975	
	18,926 13 5		4 2·896	
Slimes:—				
Filling and Discharging	13,322 17 1		11·225	
Agitating and Precipitating ...	14,180 4 4		11·947	
Smelting and Assaying	2,648 1 3		2·231	
	30,151 2 8		2 1·403	
Total Cyaniding Expenses		119,698 4 0	2 5·456	2 5·230

General Expenses:—

			Per Ton Milled.	
At Mine	46,067 5 2		11·250	
At Head Office	32,094 16 0		7·837	
		78,162 1 2		1 7·087
		£1,115,210 3 11		22 8·330

Profits Tax.

In connection with the Profits Tax (Gold Mines) it has been necessary for this branch to determine the lives of twelve of the producing mines during the year ending 30th June, 1905, viz.:—

Bonanza, Ltd.
Elandslaagte G.M. Co., Ltd.
Lisbon-Berlyn Co., Ltd.
May Consolidated G.M. Co., Ltd.
North Randfontein G.M. Co., Ltd.
Princess Estate and G.M. Co., Ltd.
Robinson Central Deep, Ltd.
Royal Sheba, Ltd.
United Ivy Reef G.M. Co., Ltd.
Van Ryn Gold Mines Estates, Ltd.
Village Deep, Ltd.
Worcester Exploration and G.M. Co., Ltd.

The following generalised information in connection with the working of this tax for the year 1904-5, which has been furnished by the Treasury Department, is of interest:—

	Witwatersrand.	Outside Districts.	Total.
1.—Mines producing at 30th June, 1905...	66	23	89
Mines accounted for their liability	61	10	71
Mines whose accounts were not due at the close of the statistical year	5	13	18

2.—The 71 mines which accounted for their liability may be classified as follows:—

(*a*) Mines which made a taxable profit			54
(*b*) Mines which did not make a taxable profit:—			
(1) Which made a profit, but less than the allowance due for amortisation	11		
(2) Which worked at an actual loss	6		
	—		17
Total			71

3.—(i.) Mines which made a taxable profit			54
Total profits	£5,511,288		
Allowance for amortisation	1,377,676		
Taxable profit	4,133,612		
Tax realised (10 per cent. on net profit)	413,361	2s. 3d.	
Percentage of tax to total profits	7½ per cent.		
Tax actually paid per ton of ore crushed		1s. 1·8d.	
(ii.) Mines which made a profit, but less than the allowance due for amortisation			11
Total profits	£226,206		
Amortisation allowance due	395,305		
Balance of amortisation carried forward for allowance to next year's assessment	£169,099		
(iii.) Mines which worked at an actual loss			6
Total losses	£26,744		
Amortisation allowance due	84,713		
Total carried forward for allowance to next year's assessment	£111,457		
(iv.) For these 71 mines:—			
The proportion of the cost of equipment and war expenditure ranking for amortisation was ...	£29,392,626		
The tonnage of the advance development	24,147,830	tons.	
Cost value of advance development	£5,266,896		
Cost value per ton of ditto	4/4·347d.		

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Capital Statistics.

Showing Funds invested in the Mining Industry of the Transvaal as at 30th June, 1904.

The statistics given in Tables Nos. 43 and 44 at the end of this volume bring the information obtainable up to 30th June, 1904, and were published in the half-yearly Report of this Department to 31st December, 1904.

Statistics for the year 1904-05 are now in course of preparation and will be issued at as early a date as possible.

In all, the figures for 339 companies are given, the issued capital of these being £98,891,499, made up as follows:—

287 Gold Mining Companies	£84,668,862
22 Coal Mining Companies	4,610,912
12 Diamond Mining Companies	1,130,885
19 Companies not classified	8,480,840

Premiums on shares provided additional funds as under:—

Gold Mining Companies	£17,902,587
Coal Mining Companies	232,088
Diamond Mining Companies	78,750
Companies not classified	4,249,171

The nominal capital of the 339 companies is £111,416,102.

Gold Mines.

Of the total of 287 gold mining companies included in this return, 33 paid dividends amounting to £3,718,797 during the twelve months ended 30th June, 1904, these being accounted for as follows:—

Classification.	Number.	Issued Capital.	Dividends.	
			Amount.	Rate %.
		£	£	
Outcrop	25	12,564,208	2,697,935	21·47
Deep Level	8	3,803,895	1,020,862	26·84
Total	33	16,368,103	3,718,797	22·72

The following particulars of dividends paid by the Witwatersrand Gold Mines since 1887 is furnished by courtesy of the Chamber of Mines:—

Year.	Dividends.	Year.	Dividends.
	£		£
1887	12,976	1896	1,513,682
1888	112,802	1897	2,707,181
1889	432,541	1898	4,848,238
1890	254,551	1899	2,946,358
1891	334,698	1900	Nil
1892	879,320	1901	415,813
1893	955,358	1902	2,121,126
1894	1,527,284	1903	3,345,502
1895	2,046,852	1904	3,877,624

Total ... ... £28,331,906.

Coal Mines.

The issued capital of 22 coal mines, £4,610,912, is made up as follows:—

Springs-Brakpan Area	7 Issued Capital,	£1,896,276
Middelburg Area	13 Issued Capital,	1,931,536
Other Districts	2 Issued Capital,	783,100

In all, four coal companies paid dividends during the twelve months ended 30th June, 1904, amounting to £116,768 on an issued capital of £1,043,931, equal to a rate of 11·19 per cent. Ten additional companies were producing but not paying dividends, their issued capital being £2,393,489, and eight, with an issued capital of £1,173,492, were non-producing.

The nominal capital of the twenty-two coal mines is £5,031,763.

Diamond Mines.

The totals for twelve diamond mines are given, the issued capital being £1,130,885, and the reserve capital, £184,115.

* * * * * * *

The Staff of the Engineering Branch on the 30th June, 1905, was as follows:—

Government Mining Engineer (Acting),
3 Inspectors of Mines (one of whom is Acting Government Mining Engineer),
3 Deputy Inspectors of Mines,
4 Assistant Inspectors of Mines,
Chief Inspector of Machinery,
8 Inspectors of Machinery,
3 Assistant Inspectors of Machinery,
Chief Inspector of Explosives,
Inspector of Explosives.
Chemist,
Mine Surveyor,
Assistant Mine Surveyor,
Draughtsman,
Principal Clerk,
Statistical Clerk,
Senior Clerk,
2 District Clerks,
11 First Class Clerks.
16 Second Class Clerks.

Total, 60.

General.—I am satisfied that the general work of the Engineering Branch has during the past year been carried out in an efficient manner. The safety of persons engaged in mining has been foremost in the minds of officials, and, while the special Government work has at all times been completed with reasonable ability and despatch, attention has been given to the general public in all matters connected with the mining industry.

The details of the general administration of this branch have already been submitted to you, and, in conclusion of this my annual report, I have to acknowledge the services of the different members of the staff, whose loyal support has always been given to assist in promoting the general efficiency of both technical and clerical work.

Appendix No. IV.

COMMISSIONER OF MINES' DEPARTMENT.

Annual Reports for the Year ended June 30, 1905.

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(Extract.)

Legislation.

Gold Law.

It was recognised that any amendment of the Gold Law of a contentious nature could not well be undertaken by the Legislative Council in its last Session, but although it was the opinion of many persons that certain amendments of a purely administrative character were urgently required, it was decided to postpone their consideration on account of the opposition of a large section of the people to any alteration of the law, prompted, it may be, more by a feeling of sentiment than from any real or well founded objection.

The following is a brief outline of some of the principal alterations that were suggested:—

1. Power to reserve areas within proclaimed diggings not necessary for the working of claims for any purpose approved of by the Lieutenant-Governor.
2. Provision whereby specially registered stands or claims in respect of which license moneys are in arrear, may be returned to the owner on payment of the license moneys due, together with fines and costs, at any time prior to the sale advertised in the "Government Gazette."

This amendment to Section 104 of the Gold Law is considered necessary for the protection of holders of registered stands or claims who, owing to what is evidently an error in the drafting of the Law, are at a disadvantage compared with the holder of stands or claims which are not specially registered, inasmuch as the latter are entitled to regain possession of their holdings at any time prior to the sale by the payment of the arrear licenses, fines and costs.

3. Provision enabling District Registrars to grant provisional water-rights to holders of ground under mining title and who are actively developing such ground.

It is thought that prospectors who are actively engaged in opening up ground, the payability of which is improved, should be entitled to protect their interests by applying for, and obtaining, a provisional water-right at a nominal cost, with the right to have the same converted into a confirmed water-right in the event of it being required for working the claims. Naturally, provisional rights of this nature would only be granted for limited periods, renewable on condition that satisfactory prospecting work was carried on.

At the present time, should a prospector neglect, owing to the expense attached, to take out a water-right, it is open to any person, possibly with more money but less inclination to work, to secure rights over the water required by the prospector for working his ground, in which case the latter is liable to lose the well-earned fruits of his labour.

4. Reduction of the charges (imposed under Section 127 of the law) on water required for motive power, which are either 1s. or 2s. 6d. per H.P. according to the amount applied for, to a uniform charge of 1s. per H.P.

5. Provision enabling the Commissioner of Mines to permit the undermining of stands, railways, cemeteries, storage sites, and machine stands under special regulations.

The Gold Law, originally framed to meet the requirements and conditions incidental to surface or outcrop mining propositions, requires to be amended so as to allow for the new requirements and conditions which have grown up since deep level mining has become of such importance.

Since mining can be carried on beneath railways and other surface works without their being in any way endangered or affected, there appears to be no reason why the restrictions imposed under Section 118 of the Law should not be repealed.

6. Provision making it lawful to grant stands for the storage of mining and building materials, the erection of works for the supply of light, heat, power, or water; the erection of churches, hospitals, schools, public offices, also for recreation purposes, cemeteries, pounds, slaughter-poles, and depositing-sites.

Much difficulty has been experienced, especially in the neighbourhood of towns situated within proclaimed gold fields, in finding sites for the above-mentioned purposes, and no good reason appears to exist why the surface of claims not required for mining purposes should not be otherwise utilised, provided that the freehold owner is granted a direct interest in any license moneys paid in respect of such surface rights.

Ordinances Passed in the 1905 Session of the Legislative Council—Administered by the Mines Department.

The following Ordinances were introduced into the Legislative Council, and, though they were not passed and did not have the force of law until after the completion of the year under review, yet it will probably be found convenient if a brief reference is made regarding them in this report.

I.—*Mines, Works, and Machinery Regulations Amendment Draft Ordinance.*

The definitions in the Ordinance of 1903 were in some respects defective, and opportunity was taken to amend, and in some instances simplify, these.

Powers are given to the Lieutenant-Governor to make Regulations:—

(*a*) For the protection and preservation of buildings, roads, railways, and other structures and enclosures from danger arising from the undermining of the same, and also for laying down conditions under which certain of these works may be undermined.

(*b*) Prohibiting the making of roads or railways over, or the erection of buildings, &c., on ground rendered dangerous by mining operations.

(*c*) Safeguarding the health of employees in mines or works.

Perhaps the most important alteration is the amendment to the Sunday Working Clause. Under the principal Ordinance only the person who actually performed the work—usually a miner—could be punished, and the manager or other person in authority who ordered the work to be carried out could not be rendered liable. Under the Amending Ordinance, both the person who works unlawfully on a Sunday as well as the person who orders such work to be done is liable to a penalty.

Under Section 4 the Lieutenant-Governor may permit the holder of any mining title to construct a railway siding, tramway, aqueduct line, pipe line, bridge, mechanical haulage, and

other like works, either over his own ground, or over the ground held under mining title by any other person, provided that such works were reasonably required, and their erection would not interfere with the working of any mine or works on such ground, provided further that the person erecting such works would be liable for any damage to any buildings caused by the erection of such works.

This Section is practically an amplification of Sections 56 and 57 of the Gold Law.

The next point of interest is contained in Section 7, which grants certain judicial powers to the Inspector of Mines and the Chief Inspector of Machinery. Provision is made in this section empowering the officers mentioned to try simple offences against the Regulations made under the Ordinance and on conviction of any person to impose a fine on that person up to, but not exceeding, five pounds.

II.—*Trading (Mining Ground) Ordinance*, 1905.

Within the last seven years, that is to say, since the time that Law 15 of 1898 came into force, mining conditions throughout the Witwatersrand have undergone considerable change. When in Law 15 of 1898 it was for the first time clearly laid down that no trading on claims should take place, such enactment was amply justified by the large number of trading stands in existence on and immediately adjacent to the outcrop, on which line mining operations were in active progress. It must also be remembered that trading rights were at that time extensively abused by the enormous illicit sale to natives of liquor, and, though perhaps not to the same extent, illicit gold dealing. In the last few years, with the development of the deeper lying portion of the reef, mining companies have found it essential for the convenience of their employees to have stores established on their properties, it being found that the nearest existing store is situated in some cases as much as three miles from the employees' quarters.

It was found that a number of licenses for trading on claims in the Witwatersrand area had been issued by the Receiver of Revenue to persons who had no legal right to trade, and a list was compiled showing the persons trading illegally. This list was forwarded to the Receiver of Revenue, with the result that towards the end of 1904 a notice was issued to the persons in question to the effect that their trading licenses would not be renewed after the 30th of June, 1905.

In accordance with instructions issued by the Treasury to the Receivers of Revenue, applications for trading licenses or renewals in respect of sites on proclaimed ground were referred to the District Registrar's Office, with the consequence that other traders, who were found to be trading on claims illegally, received a similar notification.

The majority of traders affected by this notice were persons who had simply established themselves without anybody's consent, and much against the claimholder's wish. On the other hand, a number of the traders affected by the notice were persons trading under agreements with the gold mining companies on whose properties their respective stores were situated, and who had invested a certain amount of money, and would therefore suffer loss on the sudden termination of their licenses.

As a result of these notices, a deputation of the last-mentioned traders waited upon His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor with a view to obtaining a satisfactory settlement of the matter.

The outcome of this meeting was that it was decided that, as a large number of these traders had invested considerable sums of money, it would appear to be more equitable if the time for the cancellation of the licenses were extended to the 31st of December, 1905, and the deputation were assured that the Government would introduce legislation at the coming Session of the Legislative Council to put the whole question of trading on mining areas on a firm legal basis.

In order to meet this reasonable demand for the establishment of stores on mining properties and at the same time safeguard the mining companies against the evils arising from the illicit dealing in liquor, gold, and opium by unscrupulous persons establishing themselves as ordinary traders, the Trading on Mining Ground Ordinance—the outcome of an understanding arrived at between the Chambers of Mines, Commerce, and Trade—was drafted and subsequently passed by the Legislative Council.

The most important matter dealt with by the Ordinance is the provision for the creation of a board of not less than five persons. Its duties are principally to determine what further trading facilities should be granted on proclaimed ground within the Witwatersrand area, and after consultation with the claimholder, to set aside certain areas to be given out as trading stands. Should the board not be able to obtain the consent of the holder of the mining title, they may refer the matter to the Commissioner of Mines, who is empowered under the Ordinance to decide the question and set aside the area in dispute, provided that it is not in his opinion required for mining purposes.

Another important duty of the board is to deal with all applications for trading rights on these areas. These applications are dealt with in much the same manner as the applications for liquor licenses are dealt with by the board constituted under the Licensing Law. The successful applicant is granted a certificate to the effect that he has the right to apply for a general dealer's license and (unless the certificate be withdrawn by the board) to carry on his trading on the stand granted to him.

The holder of the certificate has no right to its renewal at the expiration of the time for which it has been granted, and it is competent for any person to appear before the board and

object to the certificate either being granted or renewed. The certificate may also be withdrawn should it be proved to the satisfaction of the board that the ground is required for mining purposes, and shall be forfeited should the holder thereof be convicted and sentenced to imprisonment without the option of a fine.

III.—*Brickmaking, Lime-Burning, and Quarrying (Proclaimed Lands) Ordinance.*

An Ordinance to replace the Brickmaking, Lime-Burning, and Quarrying Regulations issued under the late Administration and repealed in November, 1901, by Proclamation 35.

The chief points to be noted in this Ordinance are:—

(*a*) The definition of clay, which includes all kinds of clay, whether fire-resisting or otherwise.

(*b*) The right of the holder of a claim, held under license issued under the Gold Law, or his nominee who has the written permission of the freehold owner of the land, to apply to the District Registrar for a permit to dig for and work sand, gravel, clay, or stone on his claim, to make and burn bricks thereon, and to remove therefrom any of these materials.

(*c*) A fee of five shillings is charged on each permit, the freehold owner being entitled to receive half of all moneys collected for permits issued in respect of his land.

(*d*) Power of the District Registrar to refuse to issue permits or renew permits under certain conditions.

It will be noted that the present Ordinance deals only with proclaimed land held under claim licenses, and in this respect differs materially from the Regulations which were repealed by Proclamation No. 34 of 1901, inasmuch as the latter dealt with all Government lands, whether proclaimed or unproclaimed, as well as proclaimed private land.

The fee for the permit remains unchanged, being 5s. The area granted under the permit, however, is considerably increased, being 60,000 square feet under the present law, as against 2,500 square feet for quarrying and brickmaking, and 1,375 square feet for lime-burning under the law repealed.

IV.—*Explosives Ordinance*, 1905.

The new Explosives Ordinance, which comes into force on the 1st January, 1906, amplifies and consolidates the various laws relating to explosives and at the same time makes provision for the following matters, which were not previously provided for:—

(*a*) The construction and licensing of explosives factories.

(*b*) The enquiring into the circumstances of accidents caused by explosives and the giving notice of such accidents.

Consequent on the removal of the restrictions on the importation of explosives by the present Administration, large quantities of explosives have been forwarded annually into the Transvaal, and experience showed that the Explosives Law No. 27 of 1896, which laid down the conditions under which explosives might be transported and stored, was in many respects defective and not suited to the altered conditions.

Importers complained that the Law did not permit of the erection of a storage magazine with a capacity for more than twelve and a half tons of explosives, and that the Law as a whole was inelastic and many of the provisions were unreasonably stringent, and that in consequence they were for no apparent reason put to considerable inconvenience.

The railway authorities also pointed out that the Transvaal Law differed considerably in many of its provisions relating to transport from those of the neighbouring Colonies, which, if carried out, would necessitate consignments of explosives being off-loaded at the border and re-arranged in the trucks in order to comply with a provision in the Transvaal Law which was not considered necessary or required by law in the adjoining Colony.

These and other defects in the Explosives Law made the passing of an amending and consolidating Ordinance of considerable urgency.

* * * * * * * *

General Position of the Mining Industry.

The following figures dealing with the most important matters of interest are introduced into this report with the intention of giving a brief summary of the position of the mining industry.

These figures, together with detailed statistics relating to the various branches of the industry, will be found in the report issued by the Government Mining Engineer.

Labour.

On the 30th June, 1905, there were employed by the mines and works of the Transvaal which come under the supervision of the Mines Department the under noted total number of

persons, the figures for the corresponding date in the previous year being also given for comparison:—

——	1904–1905.	1903–1904.
Whites	18,510	14,460
Coloured	122,437	88,567
Chinese	41,340	1,004
Total number of persons ...	182,287	104,031

In addition to these figures, there were 587 coloured convicts employed on surface work by Witwatersrand Gold Mines, the number for June, 1904, being 540.

The ratios of white to coloured persons *employed* (including Chinese) by the gold mines of the Witwatersrand during the year ended 30th June last are set out in the following table:—

WITWATERSRAND GOLD MINES.

Month.	1904–1905.		1903–1904.	
July	1 : 5·26		1 : 5·52	
August	1 : 5·27	1 : 5·41	1 : 5·54	1 : 5·50
September	1 : 5·71		1 : 5·43	
October	1 : 6·16		1 : 5·57	
November	1 : 6·52	1 : 6·51	1 : 5·51	1 : 5·55
December	1 : 6·84		1 : 5 57	
January	1 : 7·40		1 : 5·61	
February	1 : 8·02	1 : 7·96	1 : 5 85	1 : 5·84
March	1 : 8·44		1 : 6·06	
April	1 : 8·65		1 : 5·98	
May	1 : 8·52	1 : 8·54	1 : 5·69	1 : 5·70
Jnne	1 : 8·46		1 : 5·43	
Average ...	1 : 7·18		1 : 5·65	

In July, 1899, the ratio of whites to coloured persons employed by the Witwatersrand Mines was 1:8.58, and for June, 1905, the figures are 1:8.46, so that it will be seen that the gold mines quoted employed the same proportion of whites to coloured persons in June, 1905, as was the case prior to the war in July, 1899.

The number of coloured persons employed on the producing mines per stamp at work on the 30th June by the Transvaal gold mines was 18.2695.

The following figures serve to illustrate the steady increase in the number of persons employed by the gold mines on the Witwatersrand and also by all the gold mines of the Transvaal:—

Month.		Witwatersrand.			Transvaal.		
		Whites.	Coloured.	Chinese.	Whites.	Coloured.	Chinese.
1904.	July	13,038	67,187	1,388	13,707	73,370	1,388
	August	13,691	67,138	4,945	14,333	73,148	4,945
	September	13,775	69,587	9,020	14,423	75,411	9,020
	October	13,857	72,125	12,965	14,525	78,391	12,965
	November	14,233	75,347	17,469	14,944	81,673	17,469
	December	14,346	77,209	20,885	15,023	83,640	20,885
1905.	January	14,873	82,847	27,222	15,536	89,895	27,222
	February	15,162	90,178	31,424	15,831	97,882	31,424
	March	15,537	96,735	34,335	16,225	105,184	34,335
	April	15,516	98,598	35,575	16,235	107,787	35,575
	May	15,888	97,310	38,111	16,676	106,864	38,111
	June	16,158	95,309	41,340	16,989	104,902	41,340
Average for the Year		14,672	82,489	22,890	15,371	89,846	22,890

Mineral Output.

During the year ended 30th June, 1905, the total value of the mineral production of the Transvaal was £20,878,941 as detailed below, the figures for 1898, 1902-1903 and 1903-1904 being also given:—

	Year 1904–1905.	Year 1903–1904.	Year 1902–1903.	Year 1898.
	£	£	£	£
Gold	18,361,144	14,762,184	10,075,926	16,240,630
Coal	874,856	895,931	782,906	668,346
Diamonds	1,198,530	685.720	46,358	43,730
Silver	54,221	45,111	29,215	No record.
Chemicals, &c.	24.634	23,431	23,326	,,
Miscellaneous (including Salt)	365,556	301,758	178,304	,,
Grand Total	20,878,941	16,714,135	11,136,035	16,952,796

The production of gold for the year 1904-1905 registers an increase of 24.4 per cent. over that for the preceding year and 13.1 per cent. over 1898, while the increase in the value of diamonds won was 74.8 per cent.

At the commencement of the year there were 70 mines producing gold in the Transvaal, the number of stamps dropping being 4,937, and at the end of the year the figures were 89 and 7,046 respectively, while in July, 1899, the totals were 87 and 6,180.

As showing the condition of the Witwatersrand gold mining industry at the 30th June, 1905, and at July, 1899, the following figures may be quoted:—

Witwatersrand only.

Month.	No. of mines crushing.	Stamps at work.	Tons milled.	Percentage of waste sorted.	Output of Gold in fine ozs.	Yield per ton ex Bye-Products.	Fine Gold ozs. per person employed on producing mines.	No. of employees on producing mines per stamp at work.
						dwts.		
July, 1899 ...	71	5,875	795,444	20·44	383,913·301	9·653	4·084	15·999
June, 1905 ...	66	6,639	936,973	17·49	399,102·037	8·519	2·983	20·154

It will be noticed that the number of persons *employed per stamp at work* by the Witwatersrand gold mines is now considerably more than it was in 1899, the difference in favour of June, 1905, being 4.155 persons.

Coal.—The keen competition which exists between collieries is responsible for the comparatively large fall in the price of coal as indicated by the following figures:—

Year.	Output. (Tons of 2,000 lbs.)	Value.	Value per Ton at Pit's Mouth.
		£	*s. d.*
1898	1,907,808	668,346	7 0·07
1901–1902	1,134,871	469,769	8 3·35
1902–1903	1,969,089	782,906	7 11·42
1903–1904	2,370,465	895,931	7 6·71
1904–1905	2,513,824	874,856	6 11·52

The output for the year 1904-1905 constitutes a record as far as actual tonnage is concerned, but it will be seen that the competition above referred to has materially reduced the selling price at the pit's mouth.

Diamonds.—In my report for the year 1903-1904 reference was made to the effect of the diamond production upon the mineral output of the Colony.

For the year 1903-1904 the value of diamonds produced was equivalent to 4 per cent. of the gross mineral output, and for the year 1904-1905 the percentage was 5.7.

The total value of the diamond output for 1904-1905 is shown hereunder, together with comparisons with previous years:—

Year.	Carats.	Value.
		£
1897	5,792·00	11,500
1898	22,843·00	43,730
1899	No record.	No record.
1901–1902	350·00	1,199
1902–1903	33,572·57	46,358
1903–1904	497,917·14	685,720
1904–1905	995,002·51	1,198,530

The majority of the stones found come from the Pretoria district, as shown by the following figures:—

——	Carats.	Value.
		£
Mines and alluvial workings in the Pretoria District ...	991,890·26	1,186,266
Christiana Diggings	3,053·00	11,864
Wolmaransstad	59·25	400
Total	995,002·51	1,198,530

Some excellent stones have been recovered by diggers at Christiana, and I am informed that the quality of the stones, generally speaking, is superior to those found in the Pretoria district.

Comparisons.

The following figures for the years 1898 and 1904-1905 are of interest. Those for 1898 are given as the latest pre-war data obtainable from official records published by the late Government:—

——	Year 1904–1905.	Year 1898.
	£	£
Total estimated value of machinery and plant erected on gold and coal mines (excluding bnildings).	17,651,354	9,407,072
Total value of stores consumed by gold and coal mines only.	7,205,291	5,092,178
Total amount paid in salaries and wages to whites by gold and coal mines only.	5,446,099	3,885,680
Total amount of wages paid to coloured (including Chinese for 1904–05) by gold and coal mines only.	3,088,218	2,511,894

The following figures illustrate the increase in the amounts spent by the mines in the Witwatersrand area and also the gold output during the same period:—

Witwatersrand only.

Period.	White Wages and Salaries.	Native Wages.	Chinese Wages.	Value of Stores Consumed.	Value of Gold Output.
	£	£	£	£	£
For the twelve months ending June, 1904.	4,219,249	1,835,253	1,059*	5,751,478	14,255,939
For the twelve months ending June, 1905.	5,050,234	2,412,716	399,875	6,572,837	17,760,373
Increase	830,985	577,463	398,816	821,359	3,504,434

* Figures for July, 1904.

It will be seen that the spending power of the mining community, *i.e.*, white, coloured, and Chinese employees has increased by more than one and three-quarter millions sterling in twelve months, and that the increase in the case of whites alone is greater than the additional expenditure for mining materials and consumable stores.

H. WELDON,
Commissioner of Mines
(Acting).

Johannesburg,
December 22, 1905.

Appendix No. V.

Government Notice No. 77 of 1906.

His Excelleney the Acting Lieutenant-Governor has been pleased, under the powers conferred on him by Section *twenty-nine* of the Labour Importation Ordinanee, to revoke Regulation No. 45 as published in Government Notice No. 949 of 1905 and to substitute the following Regulation in place thereof.

RICHARD SOLOMON,
Attorney-General.

Attorney-General's Office,
Pretoria, January 17, 1906.

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45. In every Mining compound in whieh labourers are employed, there shall be provided a suitable board exclusively reserved for the posting of Government Notices. Alongside thereof shall also be provided a locked box for the reeeption of petitions to the Superintendent by labourers. These boxes shall be cleared by the Visiting Inspector, and must not be tampered with by unauthorised persons.

Any employer failing to make provisions for such board and box as aforesaid or failing to affix to such board any Government Notice when requested to do so by the Superintendent shall be liable to a fine not exceeding five pounds.

Any person who shall tamper with any Government Notice posted on such board or with the box provided for the reception of petitions, or who shall attempt to deter labourers from depositing petitions therein, shall be liable to a fine not exceeding fifty pounds or in default of payment to imprisonment for a period not exceeding two months.

Appendix No. VI.

Government Notice No. 78 of 1906.

His Excellency the Aeting Lieutenant-Governor has been pleased to make the following Regulation under the powers vested in him by the Labour Importation Ordinance, 1904.

RICHARD SOLOMON,
Attorney-General.

Attorney-General's Office,
Pretoria, January 17, 1906.

Regulation 46. Whenever the Superintendent, after careful enquiry, is satisfied that the eontrol of labourers on a mine is inefficient and that such inefficiency is due to the fact that there is not on sueh mine a European official in the service of the employer conversant with the language of the labourers employed thereon, he may require such employer in writing within a reasonable time to be agreed between them, or in the absence of such agreement to be fixed by the Lieutenant-Governor, to engage the services of such a European offieial.

Any employer who fails to carry out such request as aforesaid within the period agreed on or fixed by the Lieutenant-Governor shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding ten pounds for every day he is in default.

APPENDIX No. VII.

STATEMENT SHOWING STAMPS ERECTED, CAPITAL EXPENDITURE AND AVERAGE COST PER STAMP, ESTIMATED CAPITAL EXPENDITURE FOR PROJECTED DEVELOPMENT AT 5 AND 10 YEARS.

(PRESENTED TO MR. CHAMBERLAIN IN JANUARY, 1903.) *See* APPENDIX I. IN CD. 1895.

Groups.	Number of Companies.	Stamps Erected.	Capital Expenditure.	Per Stamp.	Estimated Capital Expenditure for Projected Development at		
					5 Years.	10 Years.	Total.
Consolidated Goldfields ...	4	580	3,816,617	6,580	...	...	13,000,000
H. Eckstein & Co.	10	1,085	5,794,209	5,340	4,640,000	2,320,000	6,960,000
Farrar and Anglo-French ...	3	320	1,682,687	5,258	3,283,053	...	3,283,053
General Mining and Finance...	4	250	1,305,608	5,222	3,145,000	895.000	4,040.000
A. Goerz & Co	5	340	2,226,664	6,549	4,900,000	...	4,900,000
Johannesburg Consolidated Investment Company.	10	950	3,899,188	4,104	2,515,000	1,440,000	3,955,000
S. Neumann & Co.	3	240	1,111,528	4,631	2,550,000	900,000	3,450,000
Rand Mines	10	1,240	5,484,154	4,422	755,000	1,925,000	2,680,000
J. B. Robinson	7	580	1,958,136	3,376	2,700,000	5,000,000	7,700,000
Sundry	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Champ D'Or	1	60	150,894	2,515	...	...	...
Durban Roodepoort	1	80	232,495	2,906	..	...	...
French Rand	1	60	492,310	8,205	240,000	...	240,000
Geldenhuis Estate	1	120	672,510	5,604	...	...	...
Jubilee	1	50	206,767	4,135	...	...	...
Nigel	1	50	314,328	6,286	...	...	...
Salisbury	1	50	203,569	4,071	...	...	...
Vogelstruis Estates	1	80	186,162	2,327	...	...	...
Wemmer...	1	60	307,713	5,128	...	...	...
Windsor...	1	50	155,436	3,108	...	...	...
Worcester	1	40	124,093	3,102	...	...	...
York	1	40	104,136	2,603	30,000	...	30,000
	68	...	...	...	...	...	...
West Roodepoort Deep ...	...	...	...	...	185,000	...	185,000
Total and average per Stamp.	...	6,325	30,429,204	4,811	24,943,053	12,480,000	50,423,053

NOTE.—The cost per stamp is in some cases excessive as it includes old stamps and equipment abandoned, replaced by new plant.

Trade (Imports and Exports) of the United Kingdom with the Colonies and Foreign Countries. Rates of Wages and Hours of Labour at Home and Abroad; Customs Tariff; Food Supply, &c., viz.:—

[Cd. 2622.] Statistical Abstract of the United Kingdom. Years 1890–1904. Price 1*s.* 3*d.*

[Cd. 2679.] Do. do. Colonies. Years 1890–1904. Price 1*s.* 9*d.*

[Cd. 2566.] Do. do. Foreign Countries. Years 1893–1902–03. Price 1*s.* 6*d.*

[Cd. 2754.] Do. do. British India. Years 1894–1895 to 1903–1904. Price 1*s.* 3*d.*

[Cd. 2497, 2626.] Trade of the United Kingdom, 1904. Vols. I. and II. Price 11*s.* 10*d.*

[Cd. 2797.] Foreign Import Duties, 1905. Price 2*s.*

[Cd. 2556.] Navigation and Shipping Statement. 1904. Price 3*s.* 1*d.*

[Cd. 1761, 2337, 2669.] British and Foreign Trade and Industrial Conditions. Memoranda, Tables, and Charts. Prepared by the Board of Trade. First and Second Series, and Index. Price 7*s.*

[Cd. 2473.] East India. Trade of. Years 1899–1900 to 1903–1904. Price 1*s.* 3*d.*

[Cd. 2629.] Statistical Tables relating to British Colonies, Possessions, and Protectorates. Part XXVIII. 1903. Price 7*s.*

[Cd. 2395.] Statistical Abstract of the British Empire, years 1889–1903. Price 6*d.*

[Cd. 2414.] New German Tariff, as modified by Treaties; comes into force 1st March 1906. Price 1*s.* 10*d.*

[Cd. 2594.] Agricultural Returns—Great Britain. 1904. Price 1*s.* 5*d.*

[Cd. 2627.] Colonial Import Duties. 1905. Price 2*s.* 3*d.*

[Cd. 2674.] Wages and Hours of Labour—Report on the Changes in; 1904. Price 7*d.*

[Cd. 2675.] Directory of Industrial Associations in the United Kingdom. 1905. Price 11*d.*

[Cd. 2750.] East India. Review of Trade, 1904–05. Price 5½*d.*

[Cd. 2768.] Switzerland. New Customs Tariff as Modified by Treaties with Germany and Italy. Price 7*d.*

[Cd. 2785.] Colonial Conferences. Correspondence relating to the future Organization of. Price 2½*d.*

Roumania. Translation of the New Customs Tariff, 1906. Interim Statement. Price 6*d.*

Record Office Publications:—

I. Calendars:—

Venice. Vol. XII. 1610-1613. Price 15*s.*

II. Lists and Indexes. No. XIX. State Papers, Foreign. Price 4*s.*

III. Privy Council of England. Acts of. New Series. Vol. XXX. 1599–1600. Price 10*s.*

IV. Chronicles of England:—

Year Books of the Reign of Edward III. Years XVIII and XIX. Price 10*s.*

VI. Scottish:—

Guide to the Public Records of Scotland. Price 3*s.* 6*d.*

Military:—

Africa. Geology of the Continent of. Notes on. Price 3*s.*

Engineering. Military. Manual of. 1905. Price 1*s.*

Rifle Ranges. Care and Construction of. Instructions for. Price 3*d.*

Sudan. The Anglo-Egyptian. A Compendium prepared by Officers of the Sudan Government:—
Vol. I. Geographical, Descriptive, and Historical (*with eighty-two Illustrations*). Price 10*s.*
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Chaps. I. and II., *Nil*; Chap. III., North-Eastern Sudan; Chap. IV., Eastern Sudan; Chap. V., Central Sudan; Chap. VI., South-Eastern Sudan; Chap. VII., Bahr el Ghazal; Chap. VIII., Kordofan; Chap. IX., North-Western Sudan.

Surveying. Topographical and Geographical. Text Book of. Price 3*s.* 6*d.*

Territorial Regiments of the British Army, Nos. 1 to 67. Short Histories of. 1*d.* each. In one volume, 5*s.*

Hydrographical:—

Irish Coast Pilot. Fifth Edition, 1902. Supplement, corrected to October, 1905. Price 3*d.*

South America Pilot. Part II. Tenth Edition. Price 3*s.* 6*d.*

Compass. Variations of the. List of Observations for, made during 1900–1905. Price 1*s.* 6*d.*

Navigation of H.M. Ships. Notes bearing on the. Fifth Edition. 1905. Price 2*d.*

Local Government Board. Reports to:—

Sanitary Circumstances and Administration of the Clun Rural District, Salop. No. 222. Price 4*d.*

Plague Prophylactic. A New. Preliminary Report on. By Dr. Klein, F.R.S. No. 223. Price 1*d.*

Emigrants' Information Office, 31, Broadway, Westminster, S.W., viz.:—

Colonies, Handbooks for. 1905. 8vo. Wrapper.
No. 1. Canada. 2. New South Wales. 3. Victoria. 4. South Australia. 5. Queensland. 6. Western Australia. 7. Tasmania. 8. New Zealand. 9. Cape Colony. 10. Natal. 11. Transvaal. 12. Orange River Colony. Price 1*d.* each.
No. 13. Professional Handbook. 14. Emigration Statutes and General Handbook. Price 3*d.* each.
No. 15. (viz., Nos. 1 to 14 in cloth). Price 2*s.*

Intending Emigrants, Information for:—Argentine Republic, price 2*d.* British East Africa Protectorate 1904, price 6*d.* Ceylon, June 1904, price 1*d.* Federated Malay States, &c., 1905, price 6*d.* Newfoundland, Jan. 1904, March 1905, price 1*d.* British Central Africa Protectorate, price 6*d.* Uganda Protectorate, 1904, price 6*d.* West African Colonies, Dec. 1904, price 6*d.* West Indies, 1904, price 6*d.*

Summary of Consular Reports, North and South America, 1904–5. Price 2*d.*

Foreign Office:—

Africa by Treaty. The map of. By Sir Edward Hertslet, K.C.B. Three vols. Price 31*s.* 6*d.*

Commercial Treaties. (Hertslet's.) A complete collection of Treaties, &c., &c., between Great Britain and Foreign Powers so far as they relate to Commerce and Navigation, &c., &c. By Sir Edward Hertslet, K.C.B., &c., &c. Vols. I. to XXIII. Price 15*s.* each.

State Papers. British and Foreign. Vol. 93 (Index vol.) and Vol. 94. 1900–1901. Price 10*s.* each.

Board of Trade Journal, of Tariff and Trade Notices and Miscellaneous Commercial Information. Published weekly. Price 1*d.*

Board of Trade Labour Gazette. Monthly. Price 1*d.*

TRANSVAAL.

FURTHER CORRESPONDENCE

RELATING TO

LABOUR IN THE TRANSVAAL MINES.

(*In continuation of* [*Cd.* 2788] *January*, 1906.)

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